

Hafa Adai!

CHCC: No government rate for water, wastewater services. PAGE 3
'22nd Legislature: Most productive or most gridlocked' PAGE 5

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'Those on direct deposits will get 2nd stimulus money first'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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 REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said Friday those who want to get their second stimulus payment via direct deposit will receive the money first than those who want their payments in checks, and that payments may start by Feb. 1, their ideal target date.

See **STIMULUS** on **Page 4**



Atalig

- » **Finance expects to get \$42M in advance transfer; goal is to start distributing money by Feb. 1**
- » **Finance to soon open portal at their website**
- » **Those who failed to file 2019 income tax return must file now to get 2nd stimulus**
- » **Finance ceases reissuing 1st stimulus checks**

Browne mum on resignation as casino CEO

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
 ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER



Browne

Donald Browne is keeping mum on reports about his resignation as chief executive officer of Imperial Pacific International.

See **BROWNE** on **Page 4**

Over 100 vaccinated on Tinian

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 17, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,457	24	7,481
Recovered	7,218	2	7,220
Active	111	24	135
Deaths	124	2	126
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			107,087

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	128	0	128
Traced via Travel Screening	102	0	102
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			152

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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 REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continues its rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in the CNMI, this time bringing the campaign to Tinian, where 130 people—the first one being a man who is over 65 years old—were inoculated last Jan. 17 at the Tinian Health Center.

See **TINIAN** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

MVA looks at booking charter flight later this month

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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 REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is looking at booking a new charter flight from South Korea to accommodate the pending “travel bubble” program that they anticipate to launch in February.

In an interview with acting MVA chair Gloria Cavanaugh, she said MVA is working on organizing another charter flight from South Korea to the CNMI on Jan.

18 to accommodate its plans, in partnership with E-Land Group of Companies, for a “travel bubble.”

“Jan. 18 is when we’re going to reapply for the charter. So our next target date will be early Feb-”

See **MVA** on **Page 4**



Cavanaugh

TRIPLE COLLISION

A triple car collision along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in San Jose last Saturday resulted in two minor injuries. Fortunately, there were no fatalities.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Story on **Page 2**



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Galleria Café & Restaurant reopens with a healthy menu for the island community.

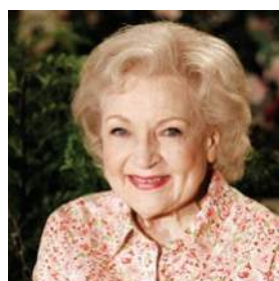
PAGE 11



NATION

Joe Biden plans to immediately ask Congress to offer legal status to 11 million people.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

True to form, Betty White has something impish to say about her birthday Sunday.

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Triple collision leaves 2 injured

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A triple car collision along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in San Jose resulted in two minor injuries. Fortunately, there were no fatalities.

Last Saturday, a red Hyundai Tucson collided with two other vehicles along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road across San Jose Mart while it was headed toward Middle Road.

The driver of the Tucson, a girl in her late teens, suffered minor injuries following the incident but did not need to be taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

A passenger of one of the vehicles that she ran into, a red Toyota Tacoma truck, also suffered minor injuries from the accident but also declined to be brought to CHC. He was tended to by Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services ambulance staff on site.

The third vehicle involved, a gold Toyota Highlander, was nearly totaled from the impact of the crash. Fortunately, the vehicle had no passengers as it was just parked in the area.

The incident took place around 8:55pm. Department of Public Safety officers arrived at the scene at around 9pm. DFEMS responding units came in at around 9:10pm.

At the scene, a man who witnessed the crash said he was driving behind the red Tucson because it had just overtaken him. He said the vehicle seemed to be driving at a high speed when it overtook him.

He said the red Tacoma, which was coming out of Tammwoora Ave., turned left into Chalan Monsignor Road and was headed toward Beach Road.

The witness said the Tucson didn't have enough time to stop before the Tacoma turned in and slammed into it.

After hitting the Tacoma, the Tucson swerved and crashed into the Highlander that was parked at the old Dolphin Wholesale parking lot.

The owner of the Highlander said she parks her vehicle there as she works at a nearby store.

According to the operator of the Tucson, the Tacoma had a lot of time to turn into the other

See TRIPLE on Page 4

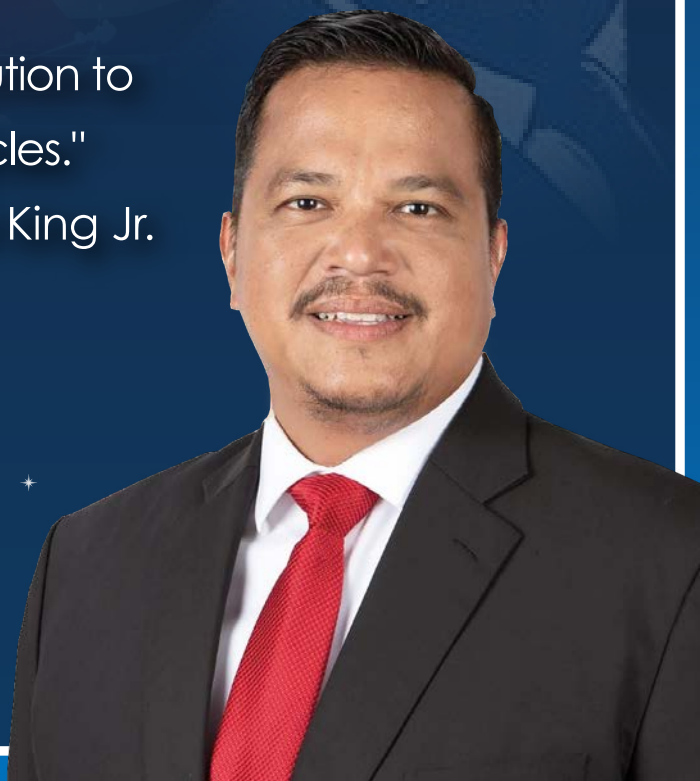
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Courage is an inner resolution to go forward despite obstacles."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On behalf of the 22nd Senate,
Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature

Jude Untalan Hofschneider
Senate President



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Hafa Adair
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

CHCC: No government rate for water, wastewater services

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is asking the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to change its water and wastewater for the hospital from a government rate to a commercial rate, saying it has learned that there is no government rate for water and wastewater.

In a letter CHCC recently sent CUC, it has learned that only the electrical service has a government rate, which means that water and wastewater can be considered either residential or non-residential.

"On Dec. 10, 2020, the CHCC became aware that the customer classification under which the CHCC has been billed by the CUC for water and sewer—'government'—does not exist according to CUC's regulations for water and sewer services," states

CHCC's letter to CUC.

In the letter, CHCC stated that CUC has to classify users of its utilities services as commercial, residential, and governmental, or other classes that CUC deems appropriate.

"For wastewater, or sewer services, CUC has determined there to be two classes of customer: residential and non-residential," said CHCC. Non-residential customers have been determined to include barracks, hotels, restaurants with attached living quarters, etc.

CUC's Northern Marianas Island Administrative Code §50-40-101(a)(1) states that the customers of the CUC have a right to dispute billings, including the right to dispute the applicable rate or fee, the applicable rate or fee, the computation of charges, the delivery of services charged for, including disputes regarding accuracy of metering or esti-

mates made by CUC, etc.

As for water, CUC has two classes: commercial and residential. However, both users pay the same rate for the same level of usage. There is also no

government rate for water usage.

"Given that there has been no legal creation of a government classification for water and wastewater, or sewer ser-

vices, CHCC requests that all prospective bills and its arrears be calculated using the commercial rate for water and the non-residential rate for wastewater," said CHCC.

Last Jan. 15, CUC chair Miranda Mangloña stated that they will meet with CHCC at a later time to decide what will be "a favorable solution" for both agencies.

McDonald's makes \$2,500 ETC donation to NMTI

McDonald's Saipan once again renewed its vow to assist the Northern Marianas Trades Institute in its workforce development strategy with an educational tax credit donation of \$2,500 Wednesday last week.

Marcia E. Ayuyu, vice president & owner/operator of McDonald's Saipan, presented the check donation to NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres, who said it is important to note that McDonald's educational tax credits have already been committed to other worthy organizations" and yet they find it in their hearts to continue giving. For this we are truly blessed."

"As part of our company's continuing effort to develop skills that help local employees, we are happy to present to NMTI the amount of \$2,500 and wish to thank the NMTI board of directors for their dedication toward developing local talent," said Ayuyu.

This marks the fifth occasion that McDonald's has made an ETC donation to the school, marking over \$20,500 in cash donations over a period of five years.

NMTI's relationship with the Ayuyu family began by chance at NMTI's first gala dinner at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in 2016, where McDonald's Saipan and Guam



NEIL FAMA

McDonald's Saipan owner/operator Marcia E. Ayuyu, second from the left, hands a check donation of \$2,500 to Northern Marianas Trades Institute chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres, second from right. Others in photo are McDonald's accountant Marissa E. Obtanalla, left, and purchasing officer Leonard Cabanting, right.

Some Judiciary services relocate

Due to ongoing construction projects at the Guma Hustisia, services regularly provided at the CNMI Supreme Court and divisions of the Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office will be relocated to temporary alternate sites this week.

The Office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Budget and Finance Office, Grants Management Office, Office of Procurement, Human Resource Office, and Marshals Service Division held regular business hours at the Guma Hustisia until last Friday, Jan. 15, 2021. Effective this

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, and except for the Grants Management Office, these offices will resume regular business hours at the second floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. The Grants Management Office will be relocated to the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Building in Susupe.

To prevent any spread of COVID-19, scheduled in-person appearances must follow all public health measures. Entry will be monitored and denied, as necessary, by the MSD and other designated personnel. (PR)

Public warned of dangerous rip currents

The public is being warned of a high rip current risk through Wednesday along east facing reefs of the Marianas.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents will be present through Wednesday morning on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Residents of Saipan, Tin-

ian, and Rota are advised to avoid venturing out near reef lines facing east. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLAND WEBEX MEETING JANUARY 19, 2021

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers

on

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

From

5:00PM-7:00PM (CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the following link:

****DOWNLOAD SLIDES AT: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/honolulu/>****

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=me95a0a0b8f74a712b4bec1b0b740b676>

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, 1991699053##), or Webex Mobile App

Benefits Workshop Topics:
Compensation, Pension, Education & Training, DIC, Survivor Benefits, Loan Guaranty, Veteran Readiness & Employment, Burial and Plot Internment Allowance, Burial Flags, & Insurance

USCIS to replace sticker that extends validity of green cards

Starting this month, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will replace the sticker that is currently issued to lawful permanent residents to extend the validity of their Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card (PRC or “green card”), with a revised Form I-797, Notice of Action.

LPRs file Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card, when their green cards expire or are about to expire. The revised Form I-797 notice will serve as a receipt notice for the Form I-90.

When presented together with the green card, the revised Form I-797

notice will extend the green card’s validity for 12 months from the date on the front of the green card and will serve as temporary proof of the LPR’s status. This change ensures that LPRs with a recently expired green card will have documentation of identity, employment authorization, and authorization to return to the United States following temporary foreign travel.

Form I-90 applicants who have not been issued a notice for a biometrics appointment and are in possession of their green card, will no longer have to visit an application support center to obtain temporary

evidence of LPR status. Applicants who have already been scheduled for a biometrics appointment will not receive a revised notice and will be issued an extension sticker at their biometrics appointment.

Starting January, applicants who file Form I-90 to replace an expiring green card will receive the revised receipt notice in the mail approximately seven-10 days after USCIS accepts their application. This notice will be printed on secure paper and will serve as evidence of identity and employment authorization when presented with an expired green card. (PR)

STIMULUS

From Page 1

Division of Revenue and Taxation director Tracy Norita also disclosed Friday that they are expecting to get 90% of their total estimate of who will receive the second stimulus or about \$42 million in advance transfer from the U.S. Internal Revenue Services. Finance’s initial total estimate is \$47 million.

Speaking at a radio news briefing Friday, Atalig said their goal is to get the direct deposits out first.

Atalig said the paper checks process is a manual one and that it takes time to sort the checks, affix the stamps, and get them to the post office.

“And then the travel time of the mail, the mail process, and it could take about a week or two when they receive their actual mail,” he said.

Atalig said the goal is not only to get the money to taxpayers as soon as possible via direct deposit, but they’re also trying to minimize lines at banks. He noted that the community is aware that during the first economic impact payment, or first stimulus, the lines at the Bank of Guam in Garapan was like a mile long.

Atalig encourages everyone once they open their portal by the end of next week to register for direct deposit of their stimulus.

“We will be doing a press release to inform the community that the portal will be open,” he said.

Norita said at the same radio news briefing that they’re calling the additional 2020 recovery rebate, or the second stimulus, as the economic impact payment 2, or EIP 2.

Norita said they just received a draft implementation plan from the IRS a few hours ago from that day, Friday, so their team is reviewing that.

“In this plan, it details the implementation for the \$600 payment for each qualifying person and child,” she said.

Norita said the important high-

lights of the plan include the eligibility, which is similar to the first stimulus. She pointed out that this time around eligibility is based on the 2019 income tax return.

“So unlike the first stimulus where we went with your most current return, whether it was the 2018 or 2019, this time, it must be based on your 2019 return,” she said.

Norita encourages all those who have yet to file their 2019 tax to file that right away if they want to get the second stimulus payment.

“We are reviewing the implementation plan. And we’re looking to have the Treasury’s approval and execution by at least Jan. 20,” she said.

The director said there is a time difference between the CNMI and Washington, D.C. and there are a couple of federal holidays being observed this week.

“And so we’re trying our best to have our plan approved and sent to them by the end of day today, so that hopefully gives them enough time to execute and approve the plan as soon as possible,” Norita said.

For the second stimulus, there are no offsets from the first stimulus.

“If you got an overpayment on your first stimulus payment, that will not be offset on your second stimulus. You will get the full \$600,” Norita said.

She said their portal for the second stimulus in their website is currently being developed. She encourages everyone that would like to receive their payment through direct deposit, to use that portal.

“If you want to submit your bank information for us to give you a direct deposit payment, if you have not already submitted one or submitted your bank information on your 2019 return, we would either go with the bank information on the return that you provided on your 2019 [filing] or what information you provide through the portal,” she said.

Norita acknowledged that there has been a delay in the

launch of the portal due to some technical issues that had to do with their hardware. “But now the replacement parts have been received. And our IT team is on it. And we’re hoping to test and have the portal up and running by the end of next week,” she said.

Back to the implementation plan, Norita said they are hoping that once it’s approved, funds will be transferred to Finance in two to three days from the date of approval.

“And so ideally we’re hoping that this happens in the next two to three weeks,” she said.

Upon approval of the plan, IRS will be transferring 90% of their estimate, or \$42 million in advance transfer. “That will allow us to issue payments as soon as possible,” she said.

Norita also reminded that all payments have ceased for the first stimulus, which had a deadline of Dec. 31, 2020.

She said for some reason a taxpayer has lost or damaged his or her check and needs to have it reissued, they are no longer reissuing the first stimulus payment. “You have to claim your EIP 1 or your first stimulus on your 2020 [income tax] return,” she pointed out.

Norita reminded the public that they are anticipating issuing at least over 30,000 payments to taxpayers for the second stimulus, which is the same number that they had from the first stimulus.

“And so I just asked for patience,” she said, adding that there are some that have to be manually processed. “And just keep in mind that we do have staff at our Treasury Office that will be working very hard to print these checks, put them in envelopes, and get them out to the mail so that you can receive them as soon as possible.”

Norita said the manual process takes time so it’s the reason why they encourage everyone to get into the portal and submit their bank information, so they will be getting a direct deposit payment.

MVA

From Page 1

ruary,” she said.

Cavanaugh said that once the Korean government is more secure, then they will push forward with their plans for a new charter. “We’re just waiting for the Korea side to be more stable. Last year, the Korean government approved [the charter] and then the following day they rescinded it. We believe that it’s because of the high level [of infections] that they are in right now. It’s total closure of the country and that is until Jan. 17. So, after Jan. 17 we will reapply for a charter. So, it’s still on. As far as the pilot stages, we’re still ready and still the same protocols,” she said.

Fortunately, Cavanaugh said, all the major tour agencies in South Ko-

rea know about the CNMI’s plans for a “travel bubble” but the tour cannot be sold yet until a date is confirmed and a confirmed date cannot be made until there is a charter.

“All of the major tour agents know about it. There’s chatter within the [community] so people do know about it. But the tour agents are not going to go out and actively sell [the travel bubbler] yet until they actually have a confirmed date. So, there’s a lot of chatter. There’s a lot of interest in it, but there’s no confirmation on the reservations [and] that is because there isn’t a date. Once there is a date, then the tour agents will actually go out and [sell the program],” she said.

A travel bubble is an exclusive arrangement between two jurisdictions that will allow a relatively easier exchange of travelers between the two.

TINIAN

From Page 1

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said the vaccination process went smoothly and that everyone was patient. “We started a little slow, but we adjusted and processing improved,” she said.

This time around, CHCC only focused on the people who are under the Phase 1A group. This group includes health care workers, front-line personnel, and the *man’amko*.

Muña added that the first person to get vaccinated was a 65-year-old male who was excited to receive the shot.

Muña stated that the staff at THC were the ones injecting the vaccines, and CHCC was just there for support. “We helped them with recording and reporting. It was the [THC] staff that did the vaccination process from start to finish,” said Muña.

Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan encourages the Tinian community to get vaccinated. “We want to encourage all our people to go online and register for the vaccination, not only for their safety but also for the community,” said Aldan.

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) echoed Aldan by encouraging Tinian’s population to get vaccinated. “Kudos to Warren Villagomez, chair of the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force; CHCC CEO Esther Muña and her team, and to the local COVID-19 Task Force headed by Matt Masga for rolling out vaccination on Tinian today,” said Hofschneider. “Get vaccinated, Tinian!”

According to Subroto Banerji, CHCC’s chief operation officer, Tinian is using the Moderna Inc. COVID-19 vaccination.

CHCC will be going to Rota this Sunday to get its population vaccinated.

BROWNE

From Page 1

tional (CNMI) LLC—a position that he held for almost six months.

“It’s complicated. I’m sorry,” was his only response over the weekend when *Saipan Tribune* asked why he resigned as CEO and if he is still working with IPI.

An IPI staff confirmed yesterday that Browne has indeed resigned but that he is still an IPI employee. The staff did not specify what Browne’s new role with IPI is.

Separately, during a hearing at the U.S. District Court for the NMI on the lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Labor against IPI, Browne informed the federal court that he is no longer the CEO of IPI since Dec. 17, 2020. It was not immediately learned why he has not separately confirmed this with the media.

Browne used to serve as IPI’s senior vice president for Security and

Surveillance.

IPI appointed him CEO effective July 17, 2020.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recently ordered Browne and IPI chair Cui Li Jie to appear at the Jan. 21 hearing in connection with the U.S. Labor’s lawsuit, with a warning that failure to appear may result in the issuance of a bench warrant for their arrest.

Last Jan. 3, Browne led IPI’s former and current employees in watching a 30-minute fireworks display in front of IPI’s Imperial Pacific Resort building in western Garapan.

Shortly before the fireworks show started, Brown said in an interview that the fireworks were a donation and that it is intended for their loyal employees and their families.

He also disclosed a recent infusion of \$2.3 million into the company’s funds and that this will take care of IPI employees’ six payrolls.

TRIPLE

From Page 2

er lane but the operator was driving really slowly.

She admitted to driving a little

over the speed limit but she claims the operator had enough time to drive into the opposite lane or could have waited until they had passed.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach out to DPS but did not receive a response.

'22nd Legislature: Most productive or most gridlocked'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Citing that the House of Representatives for the first time appears to be evenly split, Rep. Christina-Marie Elise Sablan (D-Saipan) said Monday last week that the 22nd Legislature could be the most productive

and collaborative legislature the Commonwealth has ever seen or it could be the most gridlocked.

In her speech during the inauguration of 22nd Legislature, Sablan said they could seek out creative and bipartisan ways to solve pressing problems.

"Or not, and the problems will remain," she said, adding that it's really up to the lawmakers.

"It's helpful to always bear in our hearts and minds the reasons we ran for public office in the first place, the reasons we wanted to serve. What are the values that drive us?

What do we have in common? Let's start there," Sablan said.

She noted that the House has a diverse assembly of seasoned educators, decorated veterans and military families, business and finance professionals, experienced public servants, passionate community advocates, and more.

Sablan said there are more women elected to the House

than at any other time in CNMI's history.

Aside from Sablan, the other female representatives are Reps. Sheila Therese Jack Babauta (D-Saipan), Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), Denita Kaipat Yangetmai (D-Saipan), and Leila Haveia Fleming Clark Staffler (D-Saipan).

For the first time in decades, Sablan said, there is a robust

two-party system and well that is reflected in the House's composition.

"We may disagree on the details. We may offer different strategies to get to the same goal. But we can share a common vision, and use our differences to challenge each other and refine our ideas. That's the beauty of democracy," she said.

Kilili to serve on four committees

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has announced additional committee assignments for members of the Democratic caucus in the 117th Congress, with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) serving on both the Agriculture and Veterans Affairs committees, in addition to his seats on the Natural Resources and Education and Labor committees.

"I thank the Speaker for giving me the rather unusual ability to sit on four House committees," Sablan said. "I explained to her that without representation in the Senate and without a vote for President the people of the Marianas have only one person in the federal government to look out for their interests. So, I have to cover as many bases as I can."

Ordinarily, members of the House are limited to a maxi-

mum of two committee assignments. In the previous Congress, however, Sablan sought and was granted a waiver to serve on three committees. After last November's election, he asked the speaker for permission to serve on a fourth committee and she announced Friday she had agreed to his request.

Sablan will still be limited to serving on a maximum of four subcommittees, one in each committee. And, he said, he will seek to remain vice chair of the House Natural Resources Committee with responsibility for insular affairs and chair of the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee of the Education and Labor Committee.

"I want my committee assignments to line up with the issue areas that are most important to constituents in the

Marianas," Sablan explained. "In December's relief appropriation we were successful at getting the governor all the money he asked for the Marianas Nutritional Assistance Program to carry us through fiscal year 2021. But my longstanding goal is to have the Marianas in the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP. That way we never have to beg for extra money when there is an economic crisis; it comes automatically. Being on the Agriculture Committee can help me reach this goal."

Sablan has also used the position of chair for Insular Affairs effectively. In the last Congress he called a hearing on Medicaid in the territories, which led to a ten-fold increase in funding. The Marianas went from an annual \$6.7 million in 2019 to \$62.3 million this year.

"Getting state-like treatment in Medicaid—for the

Marianas and the U.S. territories—remains my goal," Sablan said. "As vice chair I can make that case."

"I am also very concerned with the lack of progress on renewal of the compacts of free association between the United States and the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. As a Micronesian myself, I want to be sure that our fellow islanders are treated with respect by the U.S.; and I also want to ensure that the strategic arrangement that keeps our part of the world peaceful is maintained."

Front and center

Sablan will be front and center on the nationwide push to re-open schools, if he retains the chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, when the leadership selections are made in February. "It has proven very

helpful to be in leadership when decisions were made on coronavirus relief and other school funding," Sablan said.


Last week the Marianas was awarded \$77.7 million for its public schools and Northern Marianas College, bringing total education relief funding since last March to \$108.9 million.

Membership on the Veterans Affairs Committee also paid dividends in the last Congress. Last month, his legislation, which began in the committee, increasing grants for maintenance of veteran's cemeteries, became law. Sablan was also able work legislation through the committee to allow veterans and family members to use their GI Bill educational benefits to cover the cost of preparatory courses for license and certification exams. And he got his Military Spouse Career Education Act enacted to help wives and hus-

bands of service members finish their college degrees more quickly and get the training needed to re-license in their professions, when they must move to a new location under military orders.

"The committee also gives me a bully pulpit to draw attention to how Marianas veterans are underserved," Sablan said. "I am especially looking forward to the new Biden administration's response to the assessment of placing full-time permanent VBA, Vet Center, and VHA staff in the Marianas and other underserved areas, which I required in report language last year."

Sablan would like to see the committee meet with veterans in the Marianas, when travel is possible again, he said. "Chairman Mark Takano's delegation had to cut its trip short in 2019 because of a typhoon. But I think he would like to try again." (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (RAES)

CUC-RAES-21-008

CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for a Consultant (Project Engineer) from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Professional Services for the development of studies and the ultimate expansion of Power Plant #1 and Design, Build and Construction of a New Power Plant in Lower Base on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Proposers for this RAES must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Scope of Work (SOW) of the RAES may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RAES package set.

One (1) Non-Priced Proposal & One (1) Priced Proposal marked "CUC-RAES-21-008, CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES" must be submitted via email to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 11, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.


The selection of an A&E firm for the award of a contract will be by a committee appointed by the CUC Executive Director for this purpose, which will evaluate responses to this solicitation. Selection shall be made in accordance with CUC Procurement Regulations §50-50-305 regarding Architectural and Engineering Services. Discussions shall be conducted with at least 3 of the responding firms (or less if fewer than five firms respond) regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom. Based on the scoring criteria outlined herein, only the three most highly qualified firms shall be invited to discuss further the firm's qualifications and project approach outlined in the scope of work.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project will be entertained only for pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAES-21-013

A&E Design Services for the Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement (S19-068)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Lower Miha Homestead Sewerline Replacement in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAES package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAES-21-013, A&E Design Services for the Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 12, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Reyes joins the OAG; Lowrey is new division chief

Charles P. Reyes Jr. has joined the Office of the Attorney General as its newest assistant attorney general, while John Lowrey was promoted as chief of the Civil Division.

"We are pleased to welcome Charles to our litigation team of the Civil Division. We are grateful that at a time like this we are able to be in a position to continue our office's growth by adding a talented attorney like Charles," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan in a statement last Friday. "Charles will be an outstanding addition to the OAG."

Before joining the OAG, Reyes worked as a private attorney and handled criminal and civil cases for more than five years. Before taking a different career path in the legal profession, Reyes took on various roles in the CNMI government, such as press secretary for the administration from 2006 to 2009, public information officer for the leadership in the 14th CNMI House of Representatives, and assistant manager for office operations for the 2010 Census. Additionally, Reyes taught as



Attorney General Edward Manibusan, rightmost, administers the oath of office to the assistant attorneys general of the civil and criminal division. Others in the photo, from left to right, are Carl Dela Cruz, Civil Division chief John Lowrey, Jose P. Mafnas Jr., Thomas Schweiger, and Charles P. Reyes Jr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

a high school English teacher in the Public School System.



Reyes Jr.

In the private sector, Reyes has previous work experience in sales, management, and journalism. Reyes previously also served as chairman of the NMI Council for the

Humanities, and was vice president of his law school's Federalist Society Chapter. Reyes is an alumnus of the

2016 Pacific Century Fellows Program.

Before receiving his license to practice law, Reyes completed legal externships with the CNMI Superior Court, the Office of the Attorney General, and was a legal intern to the late Attorney Edward C. Arriola.

Reyes obtained his juris doctor from the University of Idaho College of Law and a



Lowrey

bachelor's degree in Speech from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Reyes is

admitted to practice law in the NMI District Court and the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and was a CNMI Certified Mediator.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Commonwealth and gain valuable work experience as a public attorney in these challenging times," said Reyes.



Attorney General Edward Manibusan, right, administers the oath of office to assistant attorney general Heather P. Barcinas, left, and victim witness coordinator Dixie I. Camacho, center, at the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lowrey's promotion was conducted in a brief ceremony with other assistant attorneys general taking their oaths of office renewing their commitment to continue their career in service to the public. The oath of office is contained in Article XVII of the NMI Constitution which requires all employees of the Commonwealth workforce to be administered the oath of office.

"On behalf of our entire office, we congratulate John in his new role as chief of Civil Division. The position has been vacant nearly two years and I am confident John will resume the responsibilities as chief with the highest honor and integrity for the betterment of the Commonwealth," said Manibusan.

Lowrey embarked on his position as assistant attorney general for the CNMI OAG last year at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. He brings to the office a decade of legal experience, having previously served as an AAG for

the American Samoa Attorney General's Office's Civil Division, a deputy attorney general for the Indiana Attorney General Office's Tax Litigation Division, and a clerk for the Indiana Tax Court.

Lowrey's prior practice has focused on complex litigation, with particular emphasis on state and local tax, financial, and land matters. He has been lead counsel for government agencies in more than 100 cases in various courts, including the Indiana Supreme Court, the Indiana Tax Court, the High Court of American Samoa, and county-level trial courts.

Lowrey earned his juris doctor from Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, IN, after receiving a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a minor in Japanese from Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR. He is admitted to practice law in Indiana, Oregon, American Samoa and the CNMI. (PR)



WORKING TOGETHER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres hosts Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) in a meeting last Wednesday to discuss working together for the betterment of the CNMI.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



GOLF COURSE REOPENS

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and E-Land/Micronesia Resort Inc. CEO and president David Shin are surrounded by CNMI elected officials, business leaders, and golf enthusiasts at the opening ceremony of the Coral Ocean Point Golf Course held last Jan. 14 in San Antonio to signal the official reopening of the golf course.

BEA CABRERA

Blanco expects fruitful, harmonious working relationships with majority

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), who is now the minority bloc leader in the House of Representatives, said they anticipate a fruitful and harmonious working relationship with the new majority group.

"The team intends to continue representing the voices of the underrepresented and underserved members of our community," said Blanco after his selection as minority bloc leader Thursday.

Blanco thanked the mem-

bers of the minority caucus for their confidence in trusting him to take lead.

The minority is composed of eight Republican Party members and one independent.

The majority is composed of eight Democrats, two independents, and one Republican.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who is the minority bloc's spokesperson, said they are confident in Blanco's skills and abilities to lead their team in the 22nd House. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Blanco

'Full Belly, Full Hearts' at it again today

To honor the legacy of civil rights icon Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the "Full Belly, Full Hearts" campaign has extended its advocacy to 2021 by provid-

ing more hot meals to impacted workers and the most vulnerable in the community.

Food distribution will take place today, Jan. 18, from 10am

to 11am in front of Majesty Chinese Restaurant. Volunteers will also deliver extra food to living quarters and to the homeless.

"In the true spirit of Dr. King, the MLK Day of Service is an opportunity to re-

member his life and re-commit ourselves by volunteering to serve, uplift, and support our neighbors in need," said Jackie Che, "Full Belly, Full Hearts" project lead.

Since Labor Day weekend,

the campaign has distributed hot meals every Sunday morning, providing more than 1,100 hot meals and grocery bags to unemployed and low-income recipients.

To celebrate the Lunar New

Year, 300 meals are scheduled to be distributed again on Sunday, Feb. 7, 4pm in front of Majesty Chinese Restaurant. The meals are sponsored by Dr. Kan Hou-Sek Kim, president of Win Win Way Construction. **(PR)**



NEWS BRIEFS

2 Saipan students land on Utah U dean's list

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Two University of Utah students from Saipan—Hyun Woo Jo, whose major is listed as Communication BA, and Hyo Lim Cho, whose major is listed as Pre-Nursing BS—have been named to the fall 2020 Dean's List, joining a total of more than 9,700 students who landed on the list. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

The University of Utah, located in Salt Lake City in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains, is the flagship institution of higher learning in Utah. Founded in 1850, it serves over 32,000 students from across the U.S. and the world. It has over 100 major subjects at the undergraduate level and more than 90 major fields of study at the graduate level, including law and medicine. In 2019, the university was selected as a new member of the Association of American Universities—an invitation-only, prestigious group of 65 leading research institutions. **(PR)**

USCIS suspending in-person services Jan. 19 and 20

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will temporarily suspend in-person services at all field offices, asylum offices and application support centers on Jan. 19 and 20 to ensure the safety of employees and individuals with appointments.

USCIS will reschedule individuals who had appointments on Jan. 19 and 20 and send them notices with their new appointment dates. The USCIS website and USCIS Contact Center will remain available for information, case status updates, and other online tools and resources. **(PR)**

4.6-magnitude quake in Pagan region

At 10:25pm on Jan. 16, 2021, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.701°N 145.248°E in the Pagan region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. **(PR)**

Guam's DRT and DOA release 2,703 2019 tax refunds

HAGATNA, Guam—The Department of Revenue and Taxation has processed, and the Department of Administration will mail this week a total of 2,703 refund checks for tax year 2019. This represents approximately \$5,667,083 in refund payments, which include refunds garnished for child support and to repay government debts. These are for error-free returns filed on or before July 22, 2020.

As of January 15, 2021, only 3,970 individual tax refunds totaling about \$11 million were for "A" status or error-free returns, which are pending pay-

ment. DRT and DOA are ahead of the six-month payment deadline required by the 2013 permanent injunction.

We have also launched the payment of refunds by direct deposit. "We are working to lay the foundation for future payments to be made by this method, which will be allowed for certain tax returns in the coming 2020 tax return filing season," said DRT director Dafne Mansapit-Shimizu.

"DOA is happy to cooperate with DRT in this effort to pay tax refunds by direct deposit which will result in faster receipt of refunds for taxpayers," said DOA director Edward Birn.

For inquiries, contact us via the 'Contact Us' section of our website or via email at pinad-min@revtax.guam.gov. **(PR)**

Military trainings in Guam

ASAN, Guam—Military units will continue to conduct scheduled exercises in open ocean at the following coordinates: 13°48"N/144°41"E and Warning Area 517 until Jan. 28, from 8am to 11:30pm.

Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the exercises and to monitor the U.S. Coast

Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Radio Barrigada and Dandan-Malojloj on Jan. 18-21 from 9am to 11:55pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity during the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean on Jan. 18-21 from 9am to 11:55pm at the following coordinates: 13°26"N/145°08"E, 13°42"N/144°36"E.

Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Agat Bay, Outer Apra Harbor, and Orote Point on Jan. 18-21, from 9am to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be used for this training. Residents in surrounding areas

should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor on Jan. 19, from 10am to 4pm. The public is advised to be aware of the event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor on Jan. 21 from 10am to 2pm. The public is advised to be aware of the event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Inner Apra Harbor on Jan. 23, from 9am to 12pm. The public is advised to be aware of the event.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. **(PR)**



REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** in MVA's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. Regular Board Meeting – December 09, 2020
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **Committee Reports**
 - a. Fund Status Report
 - b. Travel Bubble
 - c. Personnel
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a. MVA Japan Office
 - b. MVA By-Laws
- 5) **New Business**
 - a. Travel Policy
- 6) **Executive Session**
- 6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticm.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2021

Opening date: January 08, 2021 Closing date: January 29, 2021


Positions: (1) Mechanic-II (Saipan-ARFF)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 29, 2021**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-COTA/FTA-033

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 25, 2021 • TIME: 09:30 A.M.

“LEASE OF SIX (6) FIFTEEN-PASSENGER MINI-VANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY AT MS. ALFREDA P. CAMACHO VIA EMAIL ONLY TO alfreda.camacho@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, 04:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 19, 2021.** ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL POTENTIAL BIDDERS. **QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL BE ENTERTAINED.**


THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-COTA/FTA-034

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2021 • TIME: 09:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TEN (10), 2-WAY HANDHOLD, ONE (1) BASE RADIO, LAND MOBILE & ACCESSORIES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY AT MS. ALFREDA P. CAMACHO VIA EMAIL ONLY TO alfreda.camacho@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, 04:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 27, 2021.** ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL POTENTIAL BIDDERS. **QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL BE ENTERTAINED.**

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

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/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The final COVID lie

At a virtual press conference on Jan. 12, Operation Warp Speed officials made an announcement that cheered U.S. governors.

The federal government had been holding back millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses to ensure sufficient second doses for the people inoculated in the initial rollout. Now, officials said, the entire reserve would be released to states so it could be put to lifesaving use as soon as possible during the worst surge of the pandemic yet.

"Because we now have a consistent pace of production, we can now ship all of the doses that had been held in physical reserve," U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said. To make sure this vaccine windfall would not go to waste, he urged states to expand eligibility for the vaccine to people over 65 and those of any age with a condition that makes them vulnerable to a COVID-19 infection.

It was good news, even if the announcement seemed to be prompted by a similar one made by President-elect Joe Biden's team days earlier. But, as it turns out, it was too good to be true.

State officials justifiably expected this announcement would presage a larger shipment of COVID-19 doses, at least in the short term. But they were soon to be disappointed.

"Last night, I received disturbing news, confirmed to me directly by General Perna of Operation Warp Speed: States will not be receiving increased shipments of vaccines from the national stockpile next week, because there is no federal reserve of doses," Oregon's Gov. Kate Brown tweeted Friday morning.

As The Washington Post reported on Friday, there is simply no storehouse of vaccines to release. And OWS officials knew that on Tuesday.

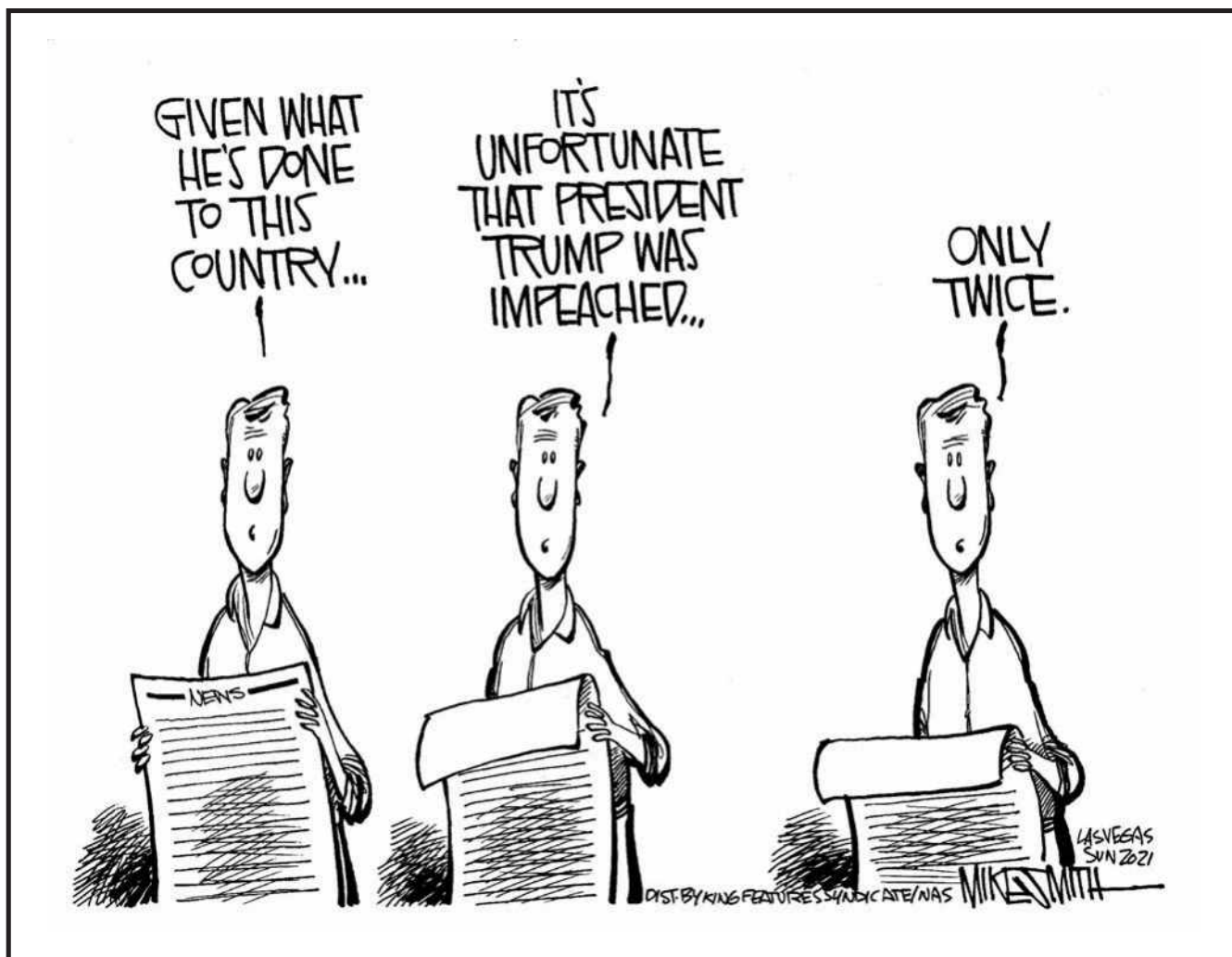
What they apparently meant was that the federal government wouldn't hold back any future doses, a move made possible because vaccination production had become reliable.

But that was not at all clear from the press conference, or from what state officials were apparently told. "Governors were told repeatedly by @HHSgov there was a strategic reserve of vaccines, and this week, the American people were told it'd be released to increase supply of vaccine," Washington Gov. Jay Inslee tweeted on Friday.

In response to the Warp Speed announcement, states such as Oregon and California expanded eligibility to people over 65, as Azar suggested. Word went out quickly and doctors' office and clinics were flooded with calls from people seeking appointments to receive shots that don't exist.

And who will take the blame for the federal government's broken promise? It probably won't be the soon-to-be-departed Operation Warp Speed team or the Trump White House, which once again has left the states twisting in the wind on the COVID-19 pandemic.

(c) 2021 The Los Angeles Times



What Martin Luther King Jr. taught us about embracing our enemies

This year's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day comes less than two weeks after a violent white mob, inspired by entrenched racism and dressed up in Christian symbolism, attacked American democracy, leaving five people dead.

As a Black Christian minister leading a nonviolent movement for civil rights, Martin Luther King Jr. came to know such mobs well. He faced them across the American South, and also right here in Chicago.

What might we learn from how King dealt with such mobs in his own time? It is reasonable to believe that King would support holding people accountable for crimes committed, but King also held a higher hope for at least some of those who were part of the mob. Namely, that they might be changed, and then included in the beloved community of American democracy.

It was toward the end of the Montgomery bus boycott, after enduring a year of death threats, false arrests and firebombings from white mobs, that King spoke of "the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of our civilization."

It was precisely when others had shown themselves at their worst that it was most important for righteous people to "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, pray for them that spitefully use you."

He continued, "This is the time for reconciliation. This is the time for redemption. This is the time to build the beloved community."

Let us be clear about how remarkable this is. Some of the people he was advocating for had attempted to burn down King's home, seriously endangering his wife and their new baby. And still King believed they could change, and be included in the beloved community of American democracy.

In 1966, while leading a march for fair housing in Chicago, King was faced with a similar mob, and he reacted in much the same way. The several hundred peaceful demonstrators he led through the Marquette Park neighborhood were met by a crowd of thousands of people, mostly ethnic whites, frothing with hate. They screamed racial epithets at him. He kept marching. They threw rocks and bottles. One hit him in the head, he went down on his knee, wiped the blood away, got up, kept marching.

Out of the corner of his eye, he saw a group of teenagers jeering at him. Somehow, King escaped his security detail, walked up to them and said something to the effect of: "You all are so smart and good-looking. Why would you want to stoop so low?"

Why would King compliment people who hurled racist slurs

By EBOO PATEL
Chicago Tribune

Dr. Eboo Patel is founder and president of IFYC, an interfaith organization, and the author of Out of Many Faiths: Religious Diversity and the American Promise.



and rocks at him? Why would he speak of reconciling with people who firebombed his house and endangered his family?

Without a doubt, the anchor for King's actions was his Christian faith. King truly believed that all of us are created in the image of God, that love is at the center of the Gospel and that it is "the only force capable of changing an enemy into a friend."

It was actually an ethic that King admired across faiths. King's hero, Mohandas Gandhi, called his Hindu-based nonviolent movement to free India from British colonial rule "satyagraha," or "love force."

In addition to his spiritual commitment to use love to turn enemies into friends, King was working a deeply pragmatic strategy. He understood a profound truth about democracy: You have to live with the people you defeat.

Moreover, they have all the same powers of citizenship as you do. They can hold rallies to promote their views, raise money for favorite causes and run candidates for office. Even if they go to jail for committing crimes, they get out at some point.

And so you have a stake in them being better than their worst selves. You have a stake in them going through a positive change.

King believed that people change when they are reminded of their God-given potential for both greatness and goodness. And so he effectively says to the racist mobs: This is not all that you can be. Your potential is so much greater than this. Even though I am the target of your hate, I see so much more in you. I am going to remind you of that greatness and goodness, and then I'm going to convince you that I'm building a world where your greatness and goodness can manifest. You will like yourself better in that world. And in that world, we will be like brothers and sisters.

There are few people in the world with the special talent for evil,
See WHAT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Intimate islands, islanders, and national security histories

The word “intimacy” is commonly used in the context of personal relations with our significant others. I want to introduce a second application of the idea of intimacy, used this time in the context of how our Chamorro Pacific Islander families have understood, related to, interpreted and experienced war, suffering, veterans’ affairs and military service.

Chamorro intimacy with American national security started in Guam at the beginning of the 20th century and expanded into the northern islands many years later. Our families became intimately familiar with the ravages of war as America and Japan took their fight to our ancient island chain. Our families fought fiercely to protect the American naval governor of Guam and many died, while other Chamorros protected George Tweed from being butchered by the Japanese military intelligence apparatus. Our relatives cared for one another daily, whether it was helping to gather or prepare food, or work as part of a forced labor group. Our Guam families were massacred at Fena, Tinta, Ta’i, Manenngon, Yigo and elsewhere, while our families from the northern islands were also intimately involved with war, assisting Japan with its fight against the United States in Guam, and being stuck in the middle of some of the fiercest fighting seen in the Pacific.

Our families from Tinian became intimately associated with war because the world’s only atomic bombing attack carried out by the United States against Japan launched from this island. Our families on Tinian and Saipan became intimately familiar with the co-sponsored Navy-CIA operations to train foreign fighters, and have seen American intelligence, paramilitary and special operations personnel come and go, throughout the northern islands up to present day.

Our entire Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization unknowingly became intimately exposed to radioactive poisoning, as over 100 U.S. government sponsored atomic and thermonuclear bomb tests took place nearby in Eastern Micronesia from the 1940s through the 1960s. Many of our relatives contracted rare cancers and diseases from war and post-war related military operations and from being in the path of poisonous radioactive debris downwind.

Chamorros intimately experienced the Vietnam conflict as

thousands of Vietnamese refugees showed up in Asan, as Navy sponsored chemical spraying of DDT continued to take place throughout Guam killing many native bird species, and as our fathers, uncles, cousins, nephews, brothers, and friends came back in body bags from being killed in the jungles of Southeast Asia. Many veterans who fought in Vietnam have long been intimately familiar with PTSD, major physical ailments, mobility limitations, and not receiving a fair and equal shot at meriting the Medal of Honor.

This intimacy with national security also applies to experiences from Chamorros being involved in other conflicts such as Korea, Desert Shield-Desert Storm, smaller post-Cold War military actions worldwide and, most recently, Iraq and Afghanistan.

This collective intimacy that the Chamorro people of the Marianas Islands have had with international and national security and war over the past several decades represents in one way a present-day American loyalty and patriotism that is extensive, deep, complex, authentic, personal, ever expanding and uniquely Pacific Islander. It is a demonstrated intimacy that over time has conditioned our Pacific blue continent civilization to place American Navy and military statecraft ahead of ancient Chamorro social and linguistic norms, human health, and environmental concerns. It is also an intimacy that has not been fully recognized and formally acknowledged by the United States and the Pentagon, in the sense that the colonial administering power has formally and completely acknowledged all the blood spilled and fully understands the collective bravery demonstrated by the Chamorro people of the Marianas who have fought on behalf of America.

This complex colonial intimacy that our people have with national security contains many ironies, to include becoming well-adjusted to a variety of injustices, founded on many pillars to include the idea of being equal or more than equal in war, and subordinated in peace. It is an intimacy that institutionally restrains the Chamorro people from having full and equal decision-making authority on matters of fundamental American national political rights. It is also a national security intimacy with darker sides that are rarely discussed, such as the massive ongoing domestic surveillance state that is in place throughout the Marianas, overseen by American intelligence, military, private sector, media, and law enforcement communities using technical and human resource

‘RICK’S COLUMN’**By RICK PEREZ**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

means to penetrate the total human environment.

Our intimacy with national security further extends to veterans’ affairs. Our veterans remain unable to readily access complete and comprehensive Veterans Administration “VA” sponsored medical care because there is no VA regional medical center located in the Marianas, despite a disproportionate number of veteran residents represented as a percentage to the total insular population. Thus this intimacy discriminates against Pacific Islander veterans who expected and believed that the United States would fully honor its commitment to provide complete medical and mental health care for all those who have served in uniform.

Today, our intimacy with American national security is now founded on the intergenerational Chamorro Pacific Islander legacy of continued outstanding service and disproportionate contributions made by our families as members of the armed forces, intelligence, and support communities of the American empire during war and peace. Today, many Chamorros continue to do very well in serving the American empire, and this has been partly driven by the intimate and deeply rooted associations we have grown accustomed to, as hard charging representatives and goodwill ambassadors from Guam, Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and Pagan, who have enacted honor, courage, and commitment in the service of fighting for American imperial interests worldwide. We must also never forget our fellow Chamorros who have died in combat or who have committed suicide from physical and mental injuries sustained from war as well.

GOP hid truth from terrorist ‘true believers’

Joe Biden is standing in front of his official blue backdrop Thursday, framed by those white lettered reminders that he’s in his “Office of the President-Elect” — right where he constitutionally belongs.

“Out of all the peril of this moment, I want you to know ... I remain so optimistic about America, as optimistic as I’ve ever been,” Biden is saying. “... Come Wednesday, we begin a new chapter ...”

But as much as we want to be reassured by Biden’s words, we cannot stop thinking about what we know — and he knows — is mainly on our minds: At noon Wednesday, Biden will be taking the inaugural oath in an unprecedentedly fortified Capitol. It will look nothing like America’s white-domed monument to democracy; it will necessarily look like a massively fenced, militarily barricaded dictatorship’s gulag. And we all know why.

Right-wing murderous terrorists are still in our midst, still locked-and-loaded, still vowing revenge because of the weeks and months and years of Donald Trump’s lies that they devout-

ly believe. Trump lies that he won the election in a landslide — says it was stolen from him. His terrorists vow to overturn it — by force.

They terrorize our homeland with the swagger and venality of an American ISIS. They will remain a clear and present danger to us all as long as they believe Trump’s lies. And as long as Trump’s right-wing Republican enablers and accessories seem to be confirming Trump’s lies every time they repeat them — and pretend to believe them, just so Trump won’t become their political enemy.

We have learned that on Jan. 6, security officers hustled Vice President Mike Pence out of the Senate just a minute or so before armed terrorists entered. Terrorists had vowed to kill or kidnap Pence after Trump denounced his own veep because he had to fulfill his constitutional duty to read the final Electoral College vote totals.

Stunning video journalism has shown us how venal the right-wing domestic terrorists can be. We remember seeing that fallen cop being beaten by a dark-bearded terrorist with a patriotic weapon — a thick wooden flagpole still wrapped by a U.S. flag. CNN identified the attacker as Peter Francis Stager, who is now charged for what he did — and just aired video of him proclaiming:

“Everybody in there (the Capitol) is a disgrace! That building is filled with treasonous traitors! Death is the only remedy for what’s in that building!” And his companion shouted: “Yes sir!”

The beaten Washington, D.C., police officer, Michael Fanone, 40, told CNN that the terrorists grabbed for his revolver. “They were screaming out, ‘Kill him with his own gun!’” But the officer said he shouted: “I have kids!” And the beating stopped.

We all remember the cop who was horribly crushed against a door, screaming in agony as he tried to keep the mob from entering the Capitol. The officer, Daniel Hodges, told CNN his attacker “was practically foaming at the mouth,” adding: “These people were true believers in the worst way!”

And we know who to blame. We must demand, right now,

By MARTIN SCHRAM

Tribune News Service



Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

that Trump’s Republican enablers and accessories — the spineless ones who kept repeating Trump’s lies, who helped convince their fellow right-wingers to become Trump’s truest believers — finally tell the terrorists the truth.

Even hours after that Jan. 6 Capitol siege ended, when Congress was recaptured from the right-wing domestic terrorists, Trump’s enablers and accessories continued to say things and do things that would con the terrorists into continuing to believe Trump’s lies. In the end, 139 Republican members of the House (that’s two-thirds of the House GOP) and eight Republican senators still voted to reject electoral votes of states Biden won, but had been challenged by Republicans. They know former Attorney General Bill Barr was right when he conceded he found no evidence to support any of Trump’s baseless election claims.

It is impossible to believe that any of those Republicans in Congress were so clueless they actually believed Trump’s lies. They feared Trump’s political reprisals. They have seen how cruelly Trump can turn on his own loyalists.

Demand that your senators and representatives must tell the terrorists Trump deceived them. Demand that they admit they did too. Demand it and return peace to our nation’s capital, your state capitals.

It is time for all players to play this hand with their cards face up. Bid No Trump.

WHAT

From Page 8






a talent for bringing out the worst in others. They are like the wicked wizard Sauron, creating Orcs and sending them forth to create fitna, chaos and violence, so that they might amass more power.

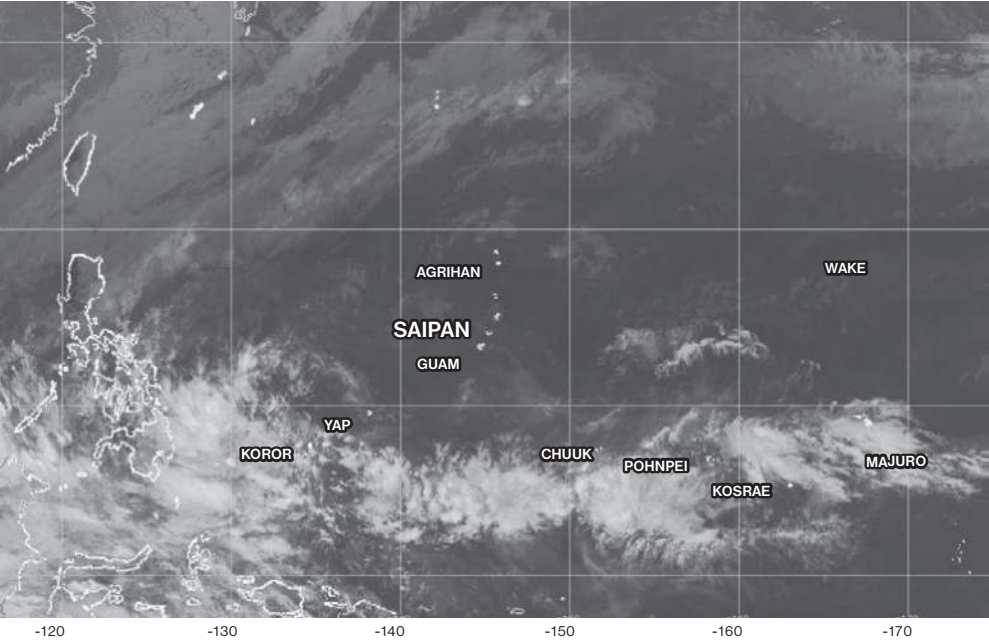
But if we are to have a healthy and diverse democracy, more of us will need to have the opposite talent, the Martin Luther King Jr. talent of seeing in people who are at their worst that they can be something better. Sometimes we have to tell those people a story that encourages them to be that better self, even when their ugliness is directed at the things we consider most precious.

King knew that it was good for them, but it was also good for him.

When people are at their worst — our enemies and our friends — we all lose. When people are at their best — our enemies and our friends — we all win.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light isolated showers are present on radar along with light to moderate trade winds. A weak trade-wind disturbance is located near 157E and is moving west towards the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°			
Yap	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°			
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°			
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	83° / 78°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°			

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:010 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:29 AM	10:38 PM	-
Tuesday	11:04 AM	11:25 PM	-
Wednesday	11:39 AM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:11 AM	12:15 PM
Friday	-	12:58 AM	12:51 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	76° / 62°			
Beijing	Sunny	44° / 13°			
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	63° / 55°			
Honolulu	Showers	75° / 65°			
London	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 41°			
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 52°			
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 75°			
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°			
Miami	Showers	70° / 59°			
New York	Partly Cloudy	44° / 28°			
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	46° / 39°			
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 39°			
Busan	Partly Cloudy/Wind	49° / 28°			
Rome	Partly Cloudy	48° / 30°			
Salem	Sunny	52° / 30°			
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 53°			
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	41° / 9°			
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	42° / 24°			
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	44° / 29°			

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:06 AM	Low Tide	-0.11	
12:03 PM	High Tide	1.62	
6:13 PM	Low Tide	0.80	
10:51 PM	High Tide	1.30	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
GUAM TO ROTA				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Galleria Café & Restaurant *reopens* with healthy menu

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Galleria Café & Restaurant reopened last Jan. 5 without much fanfare and under new management, but determined to kick off 2021 with a healthy outlook.

And by healthy outlook meaning a healthy menu for the local community, with four brown rice meals that will surely put everyone's New Year's diet resolutions

to shame.

Kevin Cho said they reopened Galleria Café & Restaurant earlier in the month and wanted to give island residents a healthier alternative for their meals.

Enter their \$12 brown rice meals that are made up initially of four dishes—grilled mushrooms, beef Bulgogi, stir-fried spicy pork, and chicken breast steak. They

all come with free miso soup, side dishes, and salad.

"We decided to sell the brown rice menu for everyone's health. Nowadays,

everyone is worried about dieting, diabetes, high blood pressure, and various adult diseases that are increasing. So, we decided to give healthy food to people," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

For more information, to order in advance, or for deliveries call 789-5777 and 233-7777



MARK RABAGO

Galleria Café & Restaurant is located on the first floor of Galleria Hotel behind I Love Saipan in Garapan.



MARK RABAGO

Galleria Café & Restaurant owner Kevin Cho welcomes everyone to his new restaurant in Garapan.

Hotel behind I Love Saipan in Garapan. It's open everyday from 10am to 2pm and 5pm to 8pm for dine-in, take-out, and deliveries. For more

information, to order in advance, or for deliveries call 789-5777 and 233-7777 or message them through their Facebook page.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Galleria Café & Restaurant's chicken breast steak salad bowl.

Chamber 'Business Person of the Year' Gala on Jan. 30

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is honoring the nominees of the 2020 SCC Awards at their annual "Business Person of the Year" Gala on Saturday, Jan. 30. These awards include the Small Business of the Year, Start-up of the Year (new award), Nonprofit of the Year, Saipan Young Professional of the Year, and Chamber Member of the Year. Additionally, the winner of the Business Person of the Year will also be recognized during the evening.

The 2020 SCC Award nominees were selected by members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and include both members and non-members alike. The winners of these awards will be voted on by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership official representatives online from Friday, Jan. 15, until Friday, Jan. 22. To vote

and read the nominees' bios, please check your email registered with the Chamber.

■ Nominees for 2020 Small Business of the Year are Naked Fish Bar & Grill and The Hut.

■ Nominees for 2020 Start-up of the Year are Eat-easy, PaoPao, and Virgie's Dress Shop.

■ Nominees for 2020 Nonprofit of the Year are 500 Sails, NMI Crime Stoppers, and Saipan Cares for Animals.

■ Nominees for the 2020 Chamber Member of the Year are Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Marianas Pacific Distributors (MAR-PAC), and Triple J Saipan.

■ Nominees for the 2020 Saipan Young Professional of the Year are Jacqueline P. Che (Jackie) and Rob Travilla.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce would like to

congratulate all nominees on the accomplishments, contributions to our Chamber, and contributions to our community. The winners will be announced at the annual Business Person of the Year Gala slated for Saturday, Jan. 30, 2020 at the Royal Taga Ballroom, World Resort from 6pm-10pm.

Seats to the event are limited and available for advance purchase only for \$100 per person. Tickets include a formal sit-down dinner, networking, and a night celebrating the movers and shakers of our community. To order tickets, please RSVP online at <https://www.saipanchamber.com/bpoyannualgala/>, email Franco at coordinator@saipanchamber.com, call (670) 234-7150, or visit us on the 4th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite #413. (PR)

Extremists exploit a loophole in social moderation: Podcasts

(AP)—Major social platforms have been cracking down on the spread of misinformation and conspiracy theories in the leadup to the presidential election, and expanded their efforts in the wake of the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. But Apple and Google, among others, have left open a major loophole for this material: Podcasts.

Podcasts made available by the two Big Tech companies let you tune into the world of the QAnon conspiracy theory, wallow in President Donald Trump's false claims of a stolen election and bask in other extremism. Accounts that have been banned on social media for election misinformation, threatening or bullying, and breaking other rules also still live on as podcasts available on the tech giants' platforms.

Conspiracy theorists have peddled stolen-election fantasies, coronavirus conspiracies and violent rhetoric. One podcaster, RedPill78, called the Capitol siege a "staged event" in a Jan. 11 episode of

Red Pill News. The day before the Capitol riot, a more popular podcast, X22 Report, spoke confidently about a Trump second term, explained that Trump would need to "remove" many members of Congress to further his plans, and said "We the people, we are the storm, and we're coming to DC."

Both are available on Apple and Google podcast platforms.

Podcasting "plays a particularly outsized role" in propagating white supremacy, said a 2018 report from the Anti-Defamation League. Many white supremacists, like QAnon adherents, support Trump. Podcasting's an intimate, humanizing mode of communication that lets extremists expound on their ideas for hours at a time, said Oren Segal of ADL's Center on Extremism.

Elsewhere on social media, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube have been cracking down on accounts amplifying unfounded QAnon claims that Trump is fighting

deep state enemies and cannibals operating a child-sex trafficking ring. A major talk radio company, Cumulus, told its hosts to tone down rhetoric about stolen elections and violent uprisings or risk termination, although it's not clear what impact that dictate has had.

Google-owned YouTube axed "Bannon's War Room," a channel run by Trump loyalist Steve Bannon on Jan. 8 after he spread false election claims and called for the beheading of Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious-disease expert. But podcast versions of Bannon's show live on at Apple and Google. Spotify took it down in November, according to one of its hosts.

"Podcasts filled with hatred and incitement to violence should not be treated any differently than any other content," Segal said. "If you're going to take a strong stance against hate and extremism in the platform in any way, it should be all-inclusive."

Nation

Biden to prioritize legal status for millions of immigrants

SAN DIEGO (AP)—President-elect Joe Biden's decision to immediately ask Congress to offer legal status to an estimated 11 million people in the country has surprised advocates given how the issue has long divided Democrats and Republicans, even within their own parties.

Biden will announce legislation his first day in office to provide a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants in the United States illegally, according to four people briefed on his plans.

The president-elect campaigned on a path to citizenship for the roughly 11 million people in the U.S. illegally, but it was unclear how quickly he would move while wrestling with the coronavirus pandemic, the economy and other priorities. For advocates, memories were fresh of presidential candidate Barack Obama pledging an immigration bill his first year in office, in 2009, but not tackling the issue until his second term.

Biden's plan is the polar opposite of Donald Trump, whose successful 2016 presidential campaign rested in part on curbing or stopping illegal immigration.

"This really does represent a historic shift from Trump's anti-immigrant agenda that recognizes that all of the undocumented immigrants that are currently in the United States should be placed on a path to citizenship," said Marielena Hincapie, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, who was briefed on the bill.

If successful, the legislation would be the biggest move toward granting status to people in the country illegally since President Ronald Reagan bestowed amnesty on nearly 3 million people in 1986. Legislative efforts to overhaul immigration policy failed in



President-elect Joe Biden departs the St. Joseph on the Brandywine Catholic Church, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, in Wilmington, Del.

2007 and 2013.

Ron Klain, Biden's incoming chief of staff, said Saturday that Biden will send an immigration bill to Congress "on his first day in office." He didn't elaborate and Biden's office declined to comment on specifics.

Advocates were briefed in recent days on the bill's broad outlines by Esther Olivaria, deputy director for immigration on the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Domingo Garcia, former president of the League of Latin American Citizens, said Biden told advocates on a call Thursday that Trump's impeachment trial in the Senate may delay consideration of the bill and that they shouldn't count on passage within 100 days.

"I was pleasantly surprised that they were going to take

quick action because we got the same promises from Obama, who got elected in '08, and he totally failed," Garcia said.

Ali Noorani, president of the National Immigration Forum and among those briefed Thursday night, said immigrants would be put on an eight-year path to citizenship. There would be a faster track for those in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which shields people from deportation who came to the country as young children, and Temporary Protected Status, which gives temporary status to hundreds of thousands of people from strife-torn countries, many from El Salvador.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris offered similar remarks in an interview with Univision that aired Tuesday, saying DACA and TPS re-

cipients will "automatically get green cards" while others would be on an eight-year path to citizenship.

More favorable attitudes toward immigration—especially among Democrats—

may weigh in Biden's favor this time. A Gallup survey last year found that 34% of those polled favored more immigration, up from 21% in 2016 and higher than any time since it began asking the question in

1965. The survey found 77% felt immigration was good for the country on the whole, up slightly from 72% in 2016.

Noorani said the separation of more than 5,000 children from the parents at the border, which peaked in 2018, alienated voters from Trump's policies, particularly conservatives and evangelicals. He believes a constantly shifting outlook for DACA recipients also hurt Trump among people who felt he was using them as "political pawns."

"What was seared in their mind was family separation. They took it out on the Republican Party in 2018 and they took it out on Trump in 2020," Noorani said. "To put a really fine point on it, they want to end the cruelty of the Trump administration."

It is impossible to know precisely how many people are in the country illegally. Pew Research Center estimates there were 10.5 million in 2017, down from an all-time high of 12.2 million in 2007.

The Homeland Security Department estimates there were 12 million people in the country illegally in 2015, nearly 80% of them for more than 10 years. More than half were Mexican.

Trump trial pending, McConnell calls it 'vote of conscience'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's impeachment trial is likely to start after Joe Biden's inauguration, and the Republican leader, Mitch McConnell, is telling senators their decision on whether to convict the outgoing president over the Capitol riot will be a "vote of conscience."

The timing for the trial, the first of a president no longer in office, has not yet been set. But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made it clear Friday that Democrats intend to move swiftly on Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID aid and economic recovery package to speed up vaccinations and send Americans relief. Biden is set to take the oath of office Wednesday.

Pelosi called the recovery package a "matter of complete urgency."

The uncertainty of the scheduling, despite the House's swift impeachment of Trump just a week after the deadly Jan. 6 siege, reflects the fact that Democrats do not want the Senate trial to dominate the opening days of the Biden administration.

With security forces

on alert over the threat of more potential violence heading into the inauguration, the Senate is also moving quickly to prepare for confirming Biden's nominee for national intelligence director, Avril Haines. A committee hearing is set for the day before the inauguration, signaling a confirmation vote could come swiftly once the new president is in office.

Many Democrats have pushed for an immediate impeachment trial to hold Trump accountable and prevent him from holding future office, and the proceedings could still begin by Inauguration Day. But others have urged a slower pace as the Senate considers Biden's Cabinet nominees and the newly Democratic-led Congress considers priorities like the coronavirus plan.

Biden's incoming White House press secretary, Jen Psaki, said Friday the Senate can do both.

"The Senate can do its constitutional duty while continuing to conduct the business of the people," she said.

Psaki noted that during Trump's first impeachment

trial last year, the Senate continued to hold hearings each day. "There is some precedent," she said.

Trump is the only president to be twice impeached, and the first to be prosecuted as he leaves the White House, an ever-more-extraordinary end to the defeated president's tenure. He was first impeached by the House in 2019 over his dealings with Ukraine, but the Senate voted in 2020 to acquit.

When his second trial does begin, House impeachment managers say they will be making the case that Trump's incendiary rhetoric hours before the bloody attack on the Capitol was not isolated, but rather part of an escalating campaign to overturn the November election. It culminated, they will argue, in the Republican president's rally cry to "fight like hell" as Congress was tallying the Electoral College votes to confirm he'd lost to Biden.

For Republican senators, the trial will be a perhaps final test of their loyalty to the defeated president and his legions of supporters in their states back home.

State capitols boarded up, fenced off, patrolled by troops

(AP)—A double row of chain-link fencing circles the Arizona State Capitol. Windows on the Illinois and Ohio statehouses have been boarded up. National Guard troops in camouflage and flak jackets and heavily armed state troopers were stationed at state capitols across the U.S. in advance of protests planned for Sunday.

With the FBI warning of potential for violence at all state capitols, the ornate halls of government and symbols of democracy looked more like heavily guarded U.S. embassies in war-torn countries.

Governors have declared

states of emergency, closed capitols to the public and called up troops ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration next week.

They are trying to avoid a repeat of the mob rioting that occurred Jan. 6, when supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol, leaving a Capitol Police officer and four others dead.

Details were vague, but demonstrations were expected at state capitols beginning Sunday and leading up to Biden taking the oath of the office Wednesday.

Signs of ramped-up security

were in abundance from Atlanta to Sacramento, California, throughout the week.

SWAT officers stood guard at the Georgia State Capitol. A bomb-detecting dog sniffed its way through the capitol in Jackson, Mississippi. State troopers were poised on the roof of the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. Sections of temporary fencing that encircled many state capitols were locked together in Sacramento with handcuffs.

National Guard troops patrolled the California Capitol and streets of downtown Sacramento on Saturday.

World

India starts world's largest COVID-19 vaccination drive

NEW DELHI (AP)—India started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway.

India is home to the world's largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunization programs. But there is no playbook for the enormity of the current challenge.

Indian authorities hope to give shots to 300 million people, roughly the population of the U.S. and several times more than its existing pro-

gram, which targets 26 million infants. The recipients include 30 million doctors, nurses and other front-line workers, to be followed by 270 million people who are either over 50 or have illnesses that make them vulnerable to COVID-19.

For workers who have pulled India's battered health care system through the pandemic, the vaccinations offered confidence that life can start returning to normal. Many burst with pride.

"I am happy to get an India-made vaccine and that we do not have to depend on others for it," said Gita Devi, a nurse

who was one of the first to get a shot. Devi has treated patients throughout the pandemic in a hospital in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh state in India's heartland.

The first dose was administered to a sanitation worker at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in the capital, New Delhi, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi kick-started the campaign with a nationally televised speech.

"We are launching the world's biggest vaccination drive and it shows the world our capability," Modi said. He implored citizens to keep their

guard up and not to believe any "rumors about the safety of the vaccines."

It was not clear whether Modi, 70, had received the vaccine himself as other world leaders have in an effort to demonstrate the shot's safety. His government has said politicians will not be considered a priority group in the first phase of the rollout.

Health officials haven't specified what percentage of India's nearly 1.4 billion people will be targeted by the campaign. But experts say it will almost certainly be the largest such drive globally.

The sheer scale has its obstacles and some early snags

were identified. For instance, there were delays in uploading the details of health care workers receiving the shots to a digital platform that India is using to track vaccines, the Health Ministry said.

Shots were given to at least 165,714 people on Saturday, Dr. Manohar Agnani, a Health Ministry official, said at an evening briefing. The ministry had said that it was aiming to inoculate 100 people in each of the 3,006 vaccination centers across the country.

News cameras captured the injections in hundreds of hospitals, underscoring the hope that getting people vaccinated

is the first step to recovering from the pandemic that has devastated the lives of so many Indians and bruised the country's economy. India is second only to the U.S. in the number of confirmed cases, with more than 10.5 million. The country ranks third in the number of deaths, behind the U.S. and Brazil, with over 152,000.

India on Jan. 4 approved emergency use of two vaccines, one developed by Oxford University and U.K.-based drugmaker AstraZeneca, and another by Indian company Bharat Biotech. Cargo planes flew 16.5 million shots to different Indian cities last week.

UN says breakthrough achieved in Libya transition talks

CAIRO (AP)—The top U.N. official for Libya said Saturday that an advisory committee for representatives of Libya's different regions has proposed a way forward for choosing a transitional government that would lead the war-torn country to elections late this year.

The talks in Geneva, structured around the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, have been taking place amid a heavy international push to reach a peaceful settlement to Libya's civil war. Previous diplomatic initiatives have all collapsed.

U.N. acting envoy for Libya Stephanie Williams told a news conference in Geneva that the advisory committee's members "have met their responsibility with a constructive spirit, cooperative efforts, and a great deal of patriotism."

The committee is part of a 75-member forum that represents all the three main regions of Libya. The 18-member committee has proposed

that each region's electoral college name a representative to a three-member presidential council, Williams said. A prime minister would be chosen by the 75-member forum. A successful nominee should receive 70% of votes.

Williams said that the forum would resort to lists formed from Libya's three regions, with each list consisting of four names, nominated for the presidential council and a prime minister position.

She said a list should obtain 17 endorsements: eight from the western region, six from the eastern region and three from southern Libya. The winning list should receive 60% of the votes of the 75-member forum in the first round. A run-up is expected if no list received the required votes, she said.

Williams said the forum would vote on the proposed mechanism on Monday and the results are expected the following day.

The transitional govern-

ment would be "a temporary unified executive staffed by Libyan patriots who want to share responsibility rather than to divide the cake," the U.N. acting envoy said.

The U.S. welcomed the breakthrough and urged all parties of Libya "to work with urgency and in good faith" to establish an interim government, according to a statement by the U.S. Embassy in Libya.

"It is time to move past the conflict and corruption facilitated by the status quo," it said.

The forum is part of the U.N. efforts to end the chaos that engulfed the oil-rich North African nation after the 2011 overthrow and killing of dictator Moammar Gadhafi. It has reached an agreement last year to hold presidential and parliamentary elections on Dec. 24, 2021.

The oil-rich country is now split east to west between two rival administrations, each backed by an array of militias and foreign powers.

Indonesian teams find more bodies, clear roads after quake

MAMUJU, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian rescuers retrieved more bodies from the rubble of homes and buildings toppled by a 6.2 magnitude earthquake, raising the death toll to 56 on Sunday, while military engineers managed to reopen ruptured roads to clear access for relief goods.

More heavy equipment reached the hardest-hit city of Mamuju and the neighboring district of Majene on Sulawesi island, where the quake hit Friday night, said Raditya Jati, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesperson.

Power supply and phone communications also began to improve.

Thousands were left homeless and more than 800 have been injured, more than half still receiving treatment for se-

rious injuries, Jati said. A total of 47 people died in Mamuju and nine in Majene.

Jati said at least 415 houses in Majene were damaged and about 15,000 people were moved to shelters. The agency is still collecting data from the area.

Mamuju, the provincial capital of nearly 300,000 people, was strewn with debris from collapsed buildings. The governor's office building was almost flattened by the quake and a shopping mall reduced to a crumpled hulk. Two hospitals were damaged.

The disaster agency said the army corps of engineers cleared the road connecting Mamuju and Majene that was blocked by landslides. They also rebuilt a damaged bridge.

Many on Sulawesi island

are still haunted by a magnitude 7.5 earthquake that devastated Palu city in 2018 and set off a tsunami that caused soil to collapse in a phenomenon called liquefaction. More than 4,000 people were killed, including many who were buried when whole neighborhoods were swallowed in the falling ground.

Indonesia, home to more than 260 million people, is frequently hit by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

A massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra island in western Indonesia in December 2004 triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

In Celebration of His New Life

† Joseph Juan Mafnas Cruz, Jr

February 11, 1990 - January 06, 2021
Lovingly known as "Boboy or Bobz"



Was called by Our Almighty Father to eternal rest at the age of 30 years.

In his new life, he now joins his:

Maternal Grandparents: †Joaquin Cabrera and †Consolacion Iglecias Deleon Guerrero
Paternal Grandparents: †Nicolas Tenorio and †Tomasa Mafnas Dela Cruz
Grandparents-in-law: †Edilberto M. Diez and †Concordia C. Diez
Stepson: †Prince Jacob Diez Gatmaitan
Uncles and Aunties: †Crispin "Kuri"/†Catherine F. Deleon Guerrero, †Juan I. Deleon Guerrero, †Herman Pablo, †Rosita B. Deleon Guerrero, †Mercedes SN. Deleon Guerrero, and †Josepha K. Camacho

His love, memories, and peaceful spirit will live on in the hearts of his:

Wife: Tresha Diez Cruz
Children: Mary Giesha, Julia Begonia, and Elijah Joseph
Mother: Begonia Iglecias Deleon Guerrero
Father: Joseph Juan Mafnas Dela Cruz
Mother-in-law: Teretisa C. Diez
Siblings: Jeffrey Jack Deleon Guerrero (Mary/Joshua (Ke'alohi Lani), Naomi, Joshua, Gracelani, Jeina, Destiny, Junella); Jorgia Cruz and Gregory Burris (Israel & Malia); Connie Cruz Williams (TJ & Teonnie); Christina DLG. Cruz (Caylem & Cayah); and Joanna Cruz and John Castro (Jayda)
Brother-in-law: Edison C. Diez
Best Friend: Darwin Sablan

Deleon Guerrero Family: Alfredo I. and Remedios R. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Artemio I. and †Mercedes SN. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Delfina DLG. and Mike Sherman & Family; Rosa DLG. and †Herman Pablo & Family; Rita O. and Antonio Rivera & Family; Jose I. and Susana V. Deleon Guerrero & Family; †Crispin I. and †Catherine F. Deleon Guerrero; Filipina G. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Efrain I. and Hilda G. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Joaquin I. and †Rosita B. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Winifreda DLG. and Felix Mendiola & Family; Lorenzo I. and Sinforosa V. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Antonio I. and Lourdes S. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Jesus I. Deleon Guerrero and †Josepha K. Camacho & Family; †Juan I. and Viola S. Deleon Guerrero & Family

Second/Loyal Families: Gualo Rai Family, Sablan-Mendiola Family and Sablan Family

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, friends, godparents and godchildren.

Si Yuus Ma'ase
Tresha Diez Cruz and Family

Last day of mass of intention offered at San Jose Church Thursday, 1/14/2021 - 6:00pm

On Saturday, January 23, 2021, at 7:45am, our Beloved Joseph (Boboy) will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am, followed by interment at Tanapag Cemetery.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

COVID-19

Eating, moving and meditating are keys to staying healthy

Dr. Elizabeth Cozine, a Mayo Clinic family medicine physician, offers these tips for staying healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Exercise

Gyms may be closed, but there are still plenty of options to get in a good workout at home. “If you have any sort of exercise equipment that’s been gathering dust in the corner, dust it off. Hop on a treadmill, bike, whatever. Something really cool that’s going on right now as part of this response to social distancing is that many app-based programs that are typically fee-for-use are offering free trials right now—for about 90 days—so try something out.”

Another good option for exercise is getting outside and taking a walk.

“You do need to be distanced from your friends and family, which is hard, but certainly feel free to take your kids, your spouse out for a walk. If you’re going to meet a friend for a walk—maybe a neighbor—keep yourself 6 feet apart. But get outside.”

Sleep During times of uncertainty and stress, sleep is crucial to allow the body to rest and heal. Dr. Cozine says it’s important to practice good sleep hygiene:

“Trying to go to bed at the same time every night, maybe sleeping in a little bit later than you normally would because you’re not rushing to get to the office. And see if you can try to get somewhere between seven and nine hours of sleep, which is what most adults need, and make that a regular part of your day.”



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Exercises for seniors in the time of COVID19.

Meditation

One way to help promote sleep is through meditation. Dr. Cozine says there’s a lot of great evidence to suggest that meditation can improve sleep and help you better cope with stress and anxiety.

“I’ve found that it helps me turn off those hamster wheels of thoughts that are rolling in my brain, and it also helps me to get ready for the next step. So I’m not talking about sitting Zen, cross-

legged for three hours thinking about—I don’t know—like a desert or something. I’m talking about maybe five minutes where you just reset. You could do it at your desk. Go somewhere quietly.”

Diet

Maintaining a healthy diet is always important, but even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. With more time on your hands and fewer options to dine out, Dr. Cozine says

this could be a good time to try some dietary changes to make a difference in your overall health. However, Dr. Cozine doesn’t recommend making any huge changes to your diet during this time of stress.

“You might think about doing some things like eating more whole foods, thinking about fewer meat (dishes), reducing your processed foods, and thinking about moving toward eating as many plants as you can.” (*Mayo Clinic News Network*)

Is stress making you frustrated and irritable? Stress relievers can help restore calm and serenity to your chaotic life. You don’t have to invest a lot of time or thought into stress relievers. If your stress is getting out of control and you need quick relief, try one of these tips.

GET ACTIVE

Virtually any form of physical activity can act as a stress reliever. Even if you’re not an athlete or you’re out of shape, exercise can still be a good stress reliever.

Physical activity can pump up your feel-good endorphins and other natural neural chemicals that enhance your sense of well-being. Exercise can also refocus your mind on your body’s movements, which can improve your mood and help the day’s irritations fade away. Consider walking, jogging, gardening, housecleaning, biking, swimming, weightlifting or anything else that gets you active.

EAT A HEALTHY DIET

Eating a healthy diet is an important part of taking care of yourself. Aim to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables, and whole grains.

AVOID UNHEALTHY HABITS

Some people may deal with stress by drinking too much caffeine or alcohol, smoking, eating too much, or

using illegal substances. These habits can harm your health.

MEDITATE

During meditation, you focus your attention and quiet the stream of jumbled thoughts that may be crowding your mind and causing stress. Meditation can instill a sense of calm, peace and balance that can benefit both your emotional well-being and your overall health.

Guided meditation, guided imagery, visualization and other forms of meditation can be practiced anywhere at any time, whether you’re

out for a walk, riding the bus to work or waiting at the doctor’s office. You can also try deep breathing anywhere.

LAUGH MORE

A good sense of humor can’t cure all ailments, but it can help you feel better, even if you have to force a fake laugh through your grumpiness. When you laugh, it not only lightens your mental load but also causes positive physical changes in your body. Laughter fires up and then cools down your stress response. So read some jokes, tell some jokes, watch a comedy or hang out with your funny friends. Or give laughter yoga a try.

ASSERT YOURSELF

You might want to do it all, but you can’t, at least not without paying a price. Learning to say no or being willing to delegate can help you manage your to-do list and your stress.

Saying yes may seem like an easy way to keep the peace, prevent conflicts and get the job done right. But it may actually cause you internal conflict because your needs and those of your family come second, which can lead to stress, anger, resentment and even the desire to exact revenge. And that’s not a very calm and peaceful reaction.

popular stress reliever. Yoga brings together physical and mental disciplines which may help you achieve peacefulness of body and mind. Yoga can help you relax and manage stress and anxiety.

Try yoga on your own or find a class—you can find classes in most communities. Hatha yoga, in particular, is a good stress reliever because of its slower pace and easier movements.

GET ENOUGH SLEEP

Stress can cause you to have trouble falling asleep. When you have too much to do—and too much to think

don’t strive for perfection in grammar or spelling.

Just let your thoughts flow on paper—or computer screen. Once you’re done, you can toss out what you wrote or save it to reflect on later.

GET MUSICAL AND BE CREATIVE

Listening to or playing music is a good stress reliever because it can provide a mental distraction, reduce muscle tension and decrease stress hormones. Crank up the volume and let your mind be absorbed by the music.

If music isn’t one of your interests, turn your attention to another hobby you enjoy, such as gardening, sewing, sketching—anything that requires you to focus on what you’re doing rather than what you think you should be doing.

SEEK COUNSELING

If new stressors are challenging your ability to cope or if self-care measures just aren’t relieving your stress, you may need to look for reinforcements in the form of therapy or counseling. Therapy also may be a good idea if you feel overwhelmed or trapped, if you worry excessively, or if you have trouble carrying out daily routines or meeting responsibilities at work, home or school.

Professional counselors or therapists can help you identify sources of your stress and learn new coping tools. (*Mayo Clinic News Network*)

Mayo mindfulness: Tips to tame stress

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

When you’re stressed and irritable, your instinct may be to isolate yourself. Instead, reach out to family and friends and make social connections.

Social contact is a good stress reliever because it can offer distraction, provide support and help you tolerate life’s up and downs. So take a coffee break with a friend, email a relative or visit your place of worship.

Got more time? Consider volunteering for a charitable group and help yourself while helping others.

TRY YOGA

With its series of postures and controlled-breathing exercises, yoga is a

about—your sleep can suffer. But sleep is the time when your brain and body recharge.

And the quality and amount of sleep you get can affect your mood, energy level, concentration and overall functioning. If you have sleep troubles, make sure that you have a quiet, relaxing bedtime routine, listen to soothing music, put clocks away, and stick to a consistent schedule.

KEEP A JOURNAL

Writing down your thoughts and feelings can be a good release for otherwise pent-up emotions. Don’t think about what to write—just let it happen. Write whatever comes to mind. No one else needs to read it, so

Life & Style

Stars return to inauguration, with J.Lo, Gaga set to perform

The A-list is back. How A-list? Try Lady Gaga and J. Lo.

Inauguration officials announced on Thursday that the glittery duo would appear in person on Jan. 20, with Gaga singing the national anthem as Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are sworn in on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol, and Jennifer Lopez giving a musical performance.

Foo Fighters, John Legend and Bruce Springsteen will

offer remote performances, and Eva Longoria and Kerry Washington will introduce segments of the event.

Later that day, Tom Hanks will host a 90-minute prime-time TV special celebrating Biden's inauguration. Other performers include Justin Timberlake, Jon Bon Jovi, Demi Lovato and Ant Clemons.

Despite a raging pandemic that is forcing most inaugural

events online, it was a sign that Hollywood was back and eager to embrace the new president-elect four years after many big names stayed away from the inauguration of President Donald Trump, hugely unpopular in Hollywood.

The question: How would the star wattage play across the country as Biden seeks to unite a bruised nation? Eric Dezenhall, a Washington crisis management consultant and former Reagan administration official, predicted reaction would fall "along tribal lines."

"I think it all comes down to the reinforcement of pre-existing beliefs," Dezenhall said. "If you're a Biden supporter, it's nice to see Lady Gaga perform." But, he added, "what rallied Trump supporters was the notion of an uber-elite that had nothing to do at all with them and that they couldn't relate to."

Presidential historian Tevi Troy quipped that the starry Gaga-J. Lo lineup was not A-list, but D-list—"for Democratic."

"When Democrats win you get the more standard celebrities," said Troy, author of

"What Jefferson Read, Ike Watched and Obama Tweeted: 200 Years of Popular Culture in the White House."

"With Republicans you tend to get country music stars and race-car drivers." Referring to Lady Gaga's outspoken support for the Biden-Harris ticket, he said he was nostalgic for the days when celebrities were not so political.

"Call me a hopeless romantic, but I liked the old days when Bob Hope or Frank Sinatra would come to these events and they were not overtly political," he said.

Still, he said, Biden's unity message won't be derailed. "In the end, I don't think having Lady Gaga or J. Lo is all that divisive," he said.

Attendance at the inauguration will be severely limited, due to both the pandemic and fears of continued violence, following last week's storming of the Capitol.

Outside the official events, one of the more prominent galas each inauguration is The Creative Coalition's quadrennial ball, a benefit for arts education. This year, the ball is entirely virtual.

Betty White marks 99th birthday Sunday; up late as she wants

LOS ANGELES (AP)—True to form, Betty White has something impish to say about her birthday Sunday.

"Since I am turning 99, I can stay up as late as I want without asking permission!" she told The Associated Press in an email.

White's low-key plans include feeding a pair of ducks that regularly visit her Los Angeles-area home. Her birthday meal will be a hot dog and French fries brought in—along with a bouquet of roses—by her longtime friend and agent, Jeff Witjas.

The actor's TV credits stretch from 1949's "Hollywood on Television" to a 2019 voice role in "Forky Asks a Question," with "The Golden Girls" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" among the enduring highlights.

In January alone, White



White

is on screen in reruns including "The Golden Girls" and "Hot in Cleveland"; the 2009 Sandra Bullock movie "The Proposal," and the 2018 documentary "Betty White: First Lady of Television," about her life and career.

White's devotion to animals will be on display next month with the DVD and digital release of "Betty White's Pet Set," a 1970s series in which she visited with celebrity guests and their pets as well as wild animals.

Her work, always marked by top-drawer comedic timing, has earned her five Emmy Awards, including a 2010 trophy for a guest-host appearance on "Saturday Night Live."

A native of Oak Park, Illinois, White was married to game show host and producer Allen Ludden from 1963 until his death in 1981.

Selena Gomez: Big Tech 'cashing in from evil'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hours after an angry mob of Trump supporters took control of the U.S. Capitol in a violent insurrection, Selena Gomez laid much of the blame at the feet of Big Tech.

"Today is the result of allowing people with hate in their hearts to use platforms that should be used to bring people together and allow people

to build community," tweeted the singer/actor. "Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google, Mark Zuckerberg, Sheryl Sandberg, Jack Dorsey, Sundar Pichai, Susan Wojcicki—you have all failed the American people today, and I hope you're going to fix things mov-



Gomez

ing forward."

It's just the latest effort by the 28-year-old Gomez to draw attention to the danger of internet companies critics say have profited from misinformation and hate on their platforms. Gomez has been calling out Big Tech for months—

publicly on the very platforms she's fighting and privately in conversations with Silicon Valley's big hitters.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press on Jan. 6, just hours before the Capitol riot, Gomez said she's been frustrated by what she views as the companies' lackluster response. She said they have to "stop doing the bare minimum."

'Parasite's' Bong Joon Ho to head Venice Film Festival jury

"Parasite" director Bong Joon Ho has been selected as jury president of the 78th Venice International Film Festival, organizers said Friday. The Oscar-winner will preside over seven jurors to hand out the festival's top awards, including the prestigious Golden Lion. He'll be the first South Korean to hold the post.

In a statement, the director said he is, "Honored to be wo-

ven into its beautiful cinematic tradition. As president of the jury—and more importantly as a perpetual cinephile—I'm ready to admire and applaud all the great films selected by the festival. I'm filled with genuine hope and excitement."

Festival director Alberto Barbera remarked upon the



Bong

historic nature of the selection.

"We are immensely grateful to him for having agreed to put his passion as a cinephile attentive, inquisitive and unprejudiced, at the service of our festival,"

Barbera said. "The decision to entrust the Jury to a Korean filmmaker, for the first time in

the festival's history, is also confirmation that the Venetian event embraces the cinema of the entire world, and that directors from every country know they can consider Venice their second home."

The Venice Film Festival was one of the only major film festivals to proceed in person last year amid the pandemic. The 78th edition is set to run from Sept. 1-11.

Husband throws a wrench in wife's exercise plans

DEAR ABBY: As a way to manage my stress and anxiety when COVID hit, I started to exercise. Neither my husband, "Chris," nor I had ever been into fitness at all. As the months have gone on, I have realized the power of being healthy, and I try to exercise every day. The problem? Chris is angry. He calls it "me time" and has made it very difficult for me to go.

I tried swimming in the morning before work, but he said he couldn't manage at home to get our 2-year-old ready for school. I tried to go to the gym in the early evening, but he said he needs me to help get the children ready for bed. I tried running later at night, but it didn't feel safe, and I also had trouble falling asleep.

Abby, I don't know what to do. Last night he told me I am selfish and should move out. Can you help me?

KEEPING MY SANITY

DEAR KEEPING: Establishing a routine of regular exercise wasn't selfish. It was the right thing to do. People have been experiencing symptoms of depression and extreme stress since this pandemic began. It is more important now than ever that you continue to take care of your physical and emotional health, and it's a shame your husband didn't do the same.

Rather than prevent you from doing what you have been doing, your husband should have praised you. Could he be jealous or threatened by what you have accomplished? That he would say something so extreme as "you should move

out" was childish. (Who would look after the kids then?)

A mature approach would be for the two of you to agree upon a schedule in which he either dresses the kids in the morning OR tucks them in at night. It not only would be a lot less expensive than a divorce, but your husband might even grow to enjoy it.

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced father of two, both over 18. I have been dating a divorced mother of three. Her children are between the ages of 7 and 12.

We are really good together, and we would like to make a life together. The problem is, she's reluctant to let her ex-husband know about me for fear of his violent reaction (she has no lingering feelings toward him other than fear). Because of this, she doesn't want her kids to know we are romantically involved. They think I'm just a "friend." She gets defensive when I bring this up.

We have been seeing each other for a couple of years now. I love her, but I'm starting to get the feeling this will never move forward. What should I do? And how long should I wait?

TENTATIVE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TENTATIVE: I wish you had written sooner. It appears that although the woman you're involved with is divorced, she is far from free. If she's afraid her ex will become violent if she makes her relationship with you official, and he has acted violently toward her in the past, she should contact her local police department and report it. She may also want to consider a restraining order and/

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



or supervised visitation when he sees the children. If she is unwilling to free herself, then for your own sake, end the relationship because it will never progress.

DEAR READERS: Today we remember the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who was martyred in the cause of civil rights in 1968. His words ring as true today as when he first uttered them: "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope." His was a voice of reason in a time of insanity, silenced too soon.

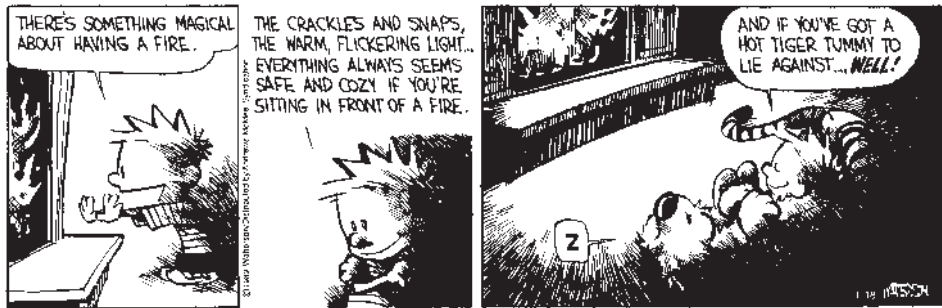
ABBY

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nine-digit ID

4 GI enter-tainers

7 Capital on a fjord

11 Slightly Dorm

13 VIPs

14 Twosome

15 Opera set in Egypt

16 Nest egg acronym

17 Scepters

18 "Well done!"

20 Furniture brand

22 — -de-France

24 Goddess of wisdom

28 Elate

32 Anticipate

33 Nevada city

34 Table support

36 "— It Romantic?"

37 Lawyers (Abbr.)

39 "— Abbey"

41 Takes the helm

43 Dict. info

44 Indy circuits

46 Ambition

50 Mexican entree

53 "Eureka!"

55 "Frozen" snow queen

56 Cabbage salad

57 Convent dweller

58 Tibetan herd

59 Regard-ing

60 Perch

61 D.C. baseballer

4 Mentalist

5 Rani's dress

6 Japanese seaport

7 "Beloved" actress

8 — Paulo, Brazil

9 Cover

10 Hosp. areas

12 "Inter-stellar" actor who played Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in "Selma"

19 Vintage

21 Greek

23 Long, skinny fish

25 Sunrise direction

26 Boy, in Barcelona

27 Envelope abbr.

28 Mardi

29 Riga native

30 Initial chip

31 Homer's neighbor

35 Deity

38 Madrid

40 Marry Mrs.

42 Bridges

45 Feng —

47 Flair

48 "May I — favor?"

49 Sail support

50 Airport screening org.

51 Gore and Pacino

52 Garfield, for one

54 Hill dweller

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 01/18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Segel, 41; Jesse L. Martin, 52; Mark Messier, 60; Kevin Costner, 66.

Happy Birthday: Stabilize your life. Evaluate what you have, what you need and what you can discard. It's time to think about what's important to you and streamline your life to accompany your plans. Take a deep breath, look in the mirror and justify every step you take. A change of heart will lead to a new beginning. Your numbers are 6, 13, 22, 29, 33, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Channel your energy into helping others. An emotional encounter handled with patience will encourage a better relationship with someone dear to you. Take your time, evaluate your options and don't initiate change until you are sure you are doing what's best for you. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Spend more time on preparation and less time fretting over what might go wrong. Use your imagination, and you will develop a plan that will influence the way things unfold. Don't let someone's uncertainty hold you back. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Align yourself with informative individuals, and share data that will bring you closer to a move or decision. Knowledge will be your passage to the lifestyle you want to live and obtaining the financial equity to turn your dream into reality. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your emotions out of professional matters. Avoid joint ventures and shared expenses. Put your money and possessions in a

safe place, and protect your heart from someone trying to take advantage of you emotionally and financially. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Discuss your plans with someone close to you. The feedback you receive will be informative and lead to an unexpected opportunity. Don't make a premature decision. Time is on your side, and subsequent options will come your way. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may desire change, but before you engage in something new, look at the potential consequences. Focus on self-improvement, health and personal growth before you venture down an unfamiliar path. Nurture a meaningful relationship, and make romance a priority. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Uncertainty will lead you in different directions. Observe what's going on around you. Emotions will mount if you let someone dictate what you can do. The research you do will be valuable and help you deter someone from taking advantage of you. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Consider the best way to get what you want. A change, if implemented correctly, can give you the nudge you need to head in a direction that is satisfying as well as lucrative. Get your finances in order. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make adjustments that will add to your comfort and the security you need to feel at ease. Peace of mind will follow if you do the best thing for you. Take control of your life and happiness. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take pride in what you do, question every move you make and pursue what makes you feel good about the way you look and feel. Adjust what's necessary, and find new ways to work with what you already have. Review, recycle and renew. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Observe what's going on around you, and you will recognize what and who can help or hinder your road to success. Your experience will encourage you to be reserved and to use the element of surprise when launching your plans. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Ask for expert advice before making a move, and it will clear up uncertainty and help you take advantage of what works best for you. You'll accomplish more if you keep up with what's trending. A financial gain is foreseeable. ***

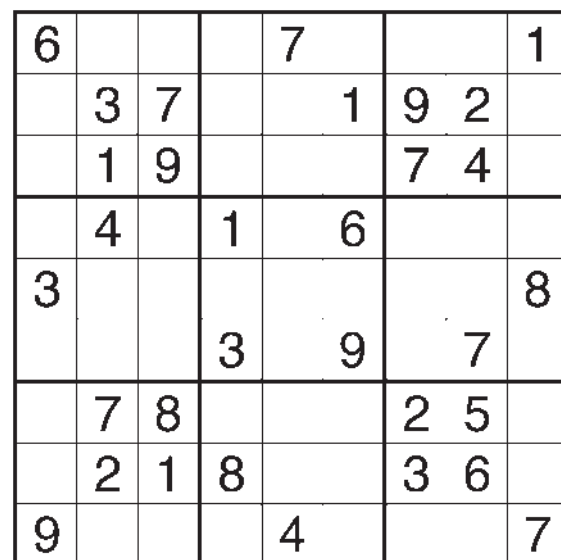
Birthday Baby: You are changeable, enchanting and unusual. You are intense and proactive.

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SUDOKU

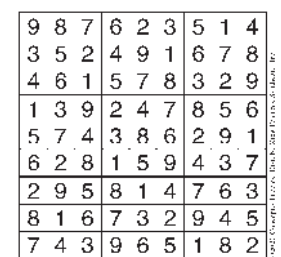
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

1/18

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DIEGO MARADONA (1960-2020)

Solution: 9 letters

S O D A R O D G N C H U R C H
T O G I A N N I N A T I R L A
I L C U T F I G E S P E D A R
G S O C H O O S D L K O A U I
R A A A E A O R D I T C L D A
E W C P L R A E R I P A M I J
G L H S A W I T R U F A P A U
A A E I A R S O C F A T O N F
N N R D A D I D N O Y A D O S
A A E M N F L B T O F I N L E
M J A O A R G E N T I N A E H
O N C L O N A C O B E F N C C
A E L W O M D U Y A L I R R T
S I N A G R A O L L D F E A A
V E R O N I C A E L S A F B M

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1/18

Al Wasi, Ana Marie, Argentina, Armando, Awards, Barcelona, Boca, Caps, Captain, Church, Claudia, Coach, Dalma, Dorados, Elsa, Fernando, Field, FIFA, Football, Fujairah, Giannina, Gift, Goals, Hugo, Jana, Manager, Maria Rose, Matches, Napoli, Ojeda, Play, Raul, Rita, Second Striker, Sinagra, Soccer, Team, Tigre, Veronica, Villa Fiorito, World Cup

Last Friday's Answer: Shopping

To purchase WONDERWORD books.

visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Bills, Packers reach conference finals



ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.
(AP)—Taron Johnson

could've kept running into next week on a 101-yard interception that carried the Buffalo Bills to their first AFC championship game appearance in 27 years.

Johnson's pick-6 of Lamar Jackson's pass with 41 seconds remaining in the third quarter secured a 17-3 win over the Baltimore Ravens in a divisional-round playoff game Saturday night.

The interception return matched the longest in NFL history and punctuated a stellar defensive outing in which Buffalo (15-3) limited the NFL's top running offense to 150 yards on 32 carries.

Jackson was sacked three times and did not return after being evaluated for a concussion following the final play of the third quarter, and two plays after Johnson scored.

Facing second-and-10 at Baltimore's 25, center Patrick Mekari snapped the ball over Jackson's head. The quarterback turned and chased the bouncing ball down inside the 5, turned and quickly threw it away as Tremaine Edmunds had him by the legs and Trent Murphy fell down on top of him.

Jackson's injury left Tyler Huntley to finish the game after being promoted off the practice squad.

Buffalo's defense took the pressure off of a Josh Allen-led offense that was limited to 223 yards offense, and made up for rookie kicker Tyler Bass missing two of three field goal attempts—a 43-yarder that was wide right in the second quarter and a 44-yarder that sailed wide left with 5:30 remaining.

The game was decided in the third quarter, when the Bills went up 10-3 on Allen's 3-yard touchdown pass to Stefon Diggs to cap an 11-play, 66-yard opening drive.

Jackson responded by marching the Ravens 66 yards on 15 plays before throwing the interception while fac-



Green Bay Packers' Aaron Jones (33) is chased down by Los Angeles Rams' Jordan Fuller (32) and Rams' Darious Williams during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff game Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, in Green Bay, Wis.

ference championship game appearances.

Saturday's game showed what a home-field edge can mean. The Packers played in front of 8,456 fans—a crowd that included paying spectators for the first time all season—but that small crowd made plenty of noise as the Packers built an early lead amid snow flurries.

Rodgers said it felt like there were 50,000 fans. Running back Aaron Jones said it seemed more like 80,000, while Lazard added that "it felt like 90,000 honestly."

That crowd chanted "M! V! P!" during the closing minutes to salute Rodgers.

"It's hard to really put into words how special that feeling is, but you can feel it," Rodgers said. "It's so palpable. You can feel the energy in the stadium. It's just different. It's different playing in front of a crowd. It's a little more special and obviously sweeter."

Rodgers helped Green Bay's potent offense overpower the Rams' vaunted defense for much of the day. The Packers didn't allow any sacks despite playing without injured All-Pro left tackle David Bakhtiari, while Green Bay sacked Jared Goff four times.

Jones ran for 99 yards and a touchdown on just 14 carries, including a 60-yard burst to open the second half. Rodgers called the Packers' offensive linemen "the stars of the game tonight."

"Definitely not happy," Rams defensive tackle Michael Brockers said. "A lot of the guys feel like it's on them. 'I messed up, or I failed you.' Everybody had their hand in it. We just weren't clicking on all cylinders."

ing third-and-goal from the 9. Johnson jumped in front of the pass intended for Mark Andrews and took off up the right sideline. He followed teammate Tre'Davious White, who made sure Jackson didn't have an angle to push Johnson out of bounds.

Johnson, who also returned an interception for a score in a 26-15 win over Pittsburgh on Dec. 13, said he initially thought about going down after catching the ball, before seeing no one in front of him.

"I caught the ball and kind of looked down, but then I looked up and saw a whole bunch of green grass to that side of me," he said. "At that point, there's one person I have to beat. And that's No. 8 (Jackson)."

Johnson wasn't touched until a mob of Bills players jumped on his back and brought him

down in the end zone.

The Bills advanced to the AFC championship game for the first time since 1994 on their way to making—and losing—their four consecutive Super Bowl appearance. Buffalo also extended a season in which it has broken numerous droughts by claiming its first AFC East division title in 25 years and, with last week's victory over Indianapolis, winning its first postseason game since the same year.

The Bills will play the winner of the AFC's other divisional playoff between Cleveland and Kansas City on Sunday.

Rodgers takes charge

Don't tell Aaron Rodgers the lack of capacity crowds in a pandemic will limit the Green Bay Packers' home-field advantage in the NFC championship game.

He's been waiting too long for this moment to have any such negative thoughts.

Rodgers threw two touchdown passes and also ran for a score as the top-seeded Green Bay Packers beat the Los Angeles Rams 32-18 in an NFC divisional playoff game Saturday. He will play a conference championship game (against the winner of the New Orleans versus Tampa Bay Sunday match) at home for the first time since taking over as Green Bay's starting quarterback in 2008.

"I'm definitely a little emotional, just thinking about what we've been through," said Rodgers, who went 23 of 36 for 296 yards. "It got me emotional with the crowd out there today."

Rodgers threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Davante Adams and a game-clinching

58-yarder to Allen Lazard with 6:52 left. Rodgers also had a 1-yard touchdown run, the first by a Packers quarterback in a playoff game at Lambeau Field since Bart Starr's winning sneak in the Ice Bowl against Dallas on Dec. 31, 1967.

The Packers (14-3) reached the NFC championship game for the fourth time in seven seasons as they chase their first Super Bowl berth in a decade. It will be their first NFC title contest at Lambeau Field since hosting for the 2007 season, when they fell to the New York Giants 23-20 in overtime. Rodgers was on Green Bay's roster during that 2007 season backing up Brett Favre.

Green Bay won the Super Bowl for the 2010 season as the NFC's No. 6 seed, and has lost at Seattle, Atlanta and San Francisco in its last three con-

AUSTRALIA (AP)—Four coronavirus cases have been detected from charter flights carrying tennis players, coaches and officials to Melbourne for the Australian Open, forcing 47 players into strict hotel quarantine.

Health authorities confirmed there'd been three positive tests for COVID-19 returned on Saturday, and another on Sunday. None of the cases have so far involved players.

However, the players from the two affected flights—arriving from Los Angeles and Abu Dhabi—were in a strict

Aussie Open arrivals hit by 4 COVID-19 positive tests

14-day quarantine, unable to leave their hotel rooms or practice, health authorities and tournament organizers said Saturday. The Australian Open starts on Feb. 8.

Health authorities initially said two positive COVID-19 cases—a coach and a member of the air crew—emerged from a charter flight from Los Angeles and the other positive test was a coach on the flight from Abu Dhabi. On Sunday, Victoria state's COVID-19 quarantine commissioner

Emma Cassar told a news conference another positive test, from a member of a television broadcast team, had been returned off Los Angeles flight.

All four cases had tested negative before boarding their flights to Australia. All had been transferred to a health hotel.

The coach of Canadian star Bianca Andreescu said he has tested positive after arriving from Abu Dhabi. Sylvain Brunau said the "rest of my team

is negative."

Tennis Australia confirmed there were 24 players on the flight from Los Angeles and 23 on the flight from Abu Dhabi. Those were among 17 charter flights from seven international destinations bringing up to 1,200 players, coaches, staff and officials into Australia for the tournament.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley issued a statement Saturday saying organizers "are com-



municating with everyone on this flight, and particularly the playing group whose conditions have now changed, to ensure their needs are being catered to as much as possible, and that they are fully apprised of the situation."

Murray doubtful

Andy Murray's status for the Australian Open was put in doubt Thursday after he tested positive for the coronavirus only days before his planned charter flight to Melbourne.

The three-time Grand Slam champion is isolating at home near London, the tournament said in a statement.

"Unfortunately this means he will be unable to join the official AO charter flights arriving in Australia in the coming days to go through the quarantine period with the other players," the statement said. "The AO fans love Andy, and we know how much he loves competing here in Melbourne and how hard he'd worked for this opportunity."

Murray has been given a wildcard entry into the first Grand Slam tournament of 2021.

Harden debuts with triple-double, KD scores 42



NEW YORK (AP)—James Harden and Kevin Durant needed a little while to remember how to play together again.

Once they did, the Brooklyn Nets really got rolling—and they might still get to another gear when Kyrie Irving rejoins them.

“The sooner we can be on the court together, it’s going to be scary hours,” Harden said.

They look pretty fearsome already.

Harden delivered 32 points and a triple-double in his Brooklyn debut, Durant scored a season-high 42 points in his first game back with his former teammate, and the Nets showed off their potent potential in a 122-115 victory over the Orlando Magic on Saturday night.

Harden had 14 assists and 12 rebounds after being cleared to play earlier in the afternoon after all the players in the blockbuster trade that brought him from Houston had completed their physicals. Harden also had nine turnovers and Durant had six, with some sloppiness while Harden got used to his new teammates.

“Early on I felt like we all were overpassing, trying to make everybody comfortable,” Durant said, “and then he just got into his mode of being aggressive to score and that opened up the whole game for others.”

Harden had no practice time with the Nets and sure didn’t need it, becoming the first player in franchise history to have a triple-double in his debut.

Durant made five 3-pointers in his 10th game back following an 18-month layoff after rupturing his Achilles tendon in the 2019 NBA Finals. He hiked his average to 30.7 points, which would be his highest since he scored a league-leading 32 per game and won NBA MVP honors for Oklahoma City in 2014.



That was a couple years after he and Harden helped lead the Thunder to the NBA Finals and their new pairing could have similar possibilities. The Nets might still reach another level when they get back Irving, who missed his sixth straight game after leaving the team last week for personal reasons.

“I think it’s going to be an adjustment for everyone, but it’s an incredible problem to have and something I think we’ll relish trying to decipher,” coach Steve Nash said.

Nikola Vucevic had 34 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the short-handed Magic, who lost their fifth straight. They were much more competitive than the others, including a 124-97 loss in Boston on Friday, but didn’t

have enough answers for Durant or Harden.

“I mean, they’re whatever, they’re, two of the four, five best offensive players in the world,” coach Steve Clifford said.

Trail Blazers 112, Hawks 106

In Portland, Damian Lillard scored 36 points and Portland rebounded from a first-half deficit to beat Atlanta for its fifth win in six games.

Enes Kanter added 12 points and 15 rebounds for the Blazers. Portland got some bad news when guard CJ McCollum left the game at halftime because of a left foot sprain.

Trae Young had 26 points and 11 assists for Atlanta, and Clint Capela added 25 points and 15 rebounds.

Spurs 103, Rockets 91

In San Antonio, DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points, Dejounte Murray had 18 points and 10 rebounds and San Antonio beat undermanned Houston to snap a four-game home losing streak.

Coming off a victory Thursday night in San Antonio, Houston was on the brink of not having eight players available as required by the league, but met the minimum in the final hour. The Rockets had seven healthy players after Sterling Brown was ruled out due to a lower leg injury, but Rodions Kurucs became eligible prior to game time when the NBA approved the blockbuster trade involving James Harden.

Christian Wood had 24 points and 17 rebounds for

Houston, and Mason Jones had a season-high 24 points. Ben McLemore had a season-high 21 points.

Grizzlies 106, 76ers 104

In Memphis, Ja Morant scored 17 points in his return after missing eight games because of a left ankle injury, helping Memphis beat Philadelphia.

Philadelphia’s Tyrese Maxey missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Morant also had six assists. Rookie Xavier Tillman added 15 points, and Grayson Allen had 12 as the Grizzlies won their fourth straight game.

Shake Milton for 28 points for the 76ers. Ben Simmons fell just short of a triple-double with 11 points, a season-high 16 rebounds and nine assists.

AP
Brooklyn Nets guard James Harden, center, shoots past Orlando Magic forward Dwayne Bacon, left, and center Nikola Vucevic, right, during the first half of an NBA game, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, in New York.

Pistons 120, Heat 100

In Miami, Jerami Grant scored 24 points, Derrick Rose had 23 off the bench and Detroit handed the Heat their third consecutive loss.

Blake Griffin scored 15 points for Detroit, which outscored Miami 38-19 in the third quarter to turn a four-point halftime deficit into a game fully under Pistons control. It was the biggest margin the Pistons outscored an opponent by in their last 331 quarters, going back to April 9, 2019.

Bam Adebayo scored 28 points for Miami.

The teams meet again Monday in Miami.

Raptors 116, Hornets 113

In Tampa Bay, Chris Boucher, Kyle Lowry and Fred Van Fleet converted eight straight free throws in the final two minutes, helping Toronto beat Charlotte for its first winning streak of the season.

Norman Powell led the Raptors with 24 points, and Boucher added 20 points and nine rebounds.

Gordon Hayward scored 25 points and Terry Rozier had 24 for the Hornets.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	8	3	.727	0.0
Philadelphia	9	5	.643	0.5
Brooklyn	8	6	.571	1.5
New York	5	8	.385	4.0
Toronto	4	8	.333	4.5

Central

Milwaukee	9	4	.692	0.0
Indiana	8	4	.667	0.5
Cleveland	6	7	.462	3.0
Chicago	4	8	.333	4.5
Detroit	3	9	.250	5.5

Southeast

Orlando	6	7	.462	0.0
Charlotte	6	8	.429	0.5
Atlanta	5	7	.417	0.5
Miami	4	7	.364	1.0
Washington	3	8	.273	2.0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific

LA Lakers	11	3	.786	0.0
LA Clippers	9	4	.692	1.5
Phoenix	7	4	.636	2.5
Golden State	6	6	.500	4.0
Sacramento	5	8	.385	5.5

Southwest

Dallas	6	5	.545	0.0
San Antonio	7	6	.538	0.0
Memphis	6	6	.500	0.5
New Orleans	4	7	.364	2.0
Houston	4	7	.364	2.0

Northwest

Utah	8	4	.667	0.0
Portland	8	5	.615	0.5
Denver	6	6	.500	2.0
Oklahoma City	6	6	.500	2.0
Minnesota	3	8	.273	4.0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former IOC official says UN could rule on Tokyo Games

SYDNEY (AP)—Kevan Gosper, a former International Olympic Committee vice president, is suggesting the United Nations might be the place to decide the fate of the postponed Tokyo Olympics.

The Olympics are to open on July 23 but face mounting opposition at home as COVID-19 cases surge in Tokyo, across Japan and across the globe.

Tokyo and other parts of Japan are under emergency orders with about 4,200 deaths in the country attributed to COVID-19.

Gosper, still an honorary IOC member, made the sug-

gestion to Australia’s national broadcaster, the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

“If you were looking for a third party that recognizes that this has gone beyond being an issue just related to sport, or just related to national interest, by virtue of the global COVID (pandemic) and its impact then there could be a case to go the United Nations and seek their involvement in arbitrating whether the games go ahead or not,” Gosper told the ABC’s “The Ticket” program.

The IOC and local organizers have said the Olympics cannot be postponed again. They will be canceled this

time if they can’t be held.

“We’ve done this before in the IOC, we’ve gone to the United Nations to give us assistance,” Gosper said. “Because we are talking about something that potentially is going to involve representatives from 205 countries.”

Gosper did not indicate he had contacted the United Nations, and it’s not clear the body would enter into what is an intense political issue in Japan.

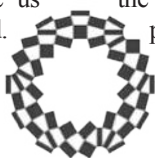
Japan has invested a reported \$25 billion to organize the Olympics, and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has repeated

that the games will take place.

National pride is also at stake, with China set to hold the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022, six months after the Summer Games in Tokyo are to close.

The IOC has seen its income flow stalled by the postponement. The Switzerland-based sports body gets 73% of its income from TV rights, and another 18% from sponsors.

Tokyo organizers say they have many “countermeasures” to fight COVID-19 and hold the Olympics, but they have offered no concrete



TOKYO 2020

LeMahieu nearing deal with Yankees

NEW YORK—DJ LeMahieu, the soft-spoken infielder who for two seasons was the New York Yankees' most productive player, on Friday morning was nearing an agreement to re-sign with the Yankees, according to reports.

MLB Network's Jon Morosi first reported the progress, while ESPN's Jeff Passan reported the deal will be for six years and \$90 million. LeMahieu had sought a contract in the range of \$110 million range, and few thought the pact would extend to six years.

At 32, and after playing those two seasons under the team-friendly terms of \$12 million per, LeMahieu hit the market as easily the best available second baseman. Also the best third baseman. And the best first baseman. He played all three positions for the Yankees, though primarily second base, and across two seasons—195 games—batted .336 with 36 home runs, 43 doubles and a .922 OPS. He was fourth in American League MVP balloting in 2019 and third in 2020. LeMahieu also batted .306 with three home runs and 11 RBIs in 16 postseason games.

"I want to stay here," Le-

Mahieu told reporters as his contract was expiring. "I've said that a few times."

He drew interest from a large handful of teams in the course of what is becoming a long winter for free agents, including the top-tier players. Though in recent days he'd grown weary of the pace, and even directed his representatives to initiate deeper conversations with teams other than the Yankees, LeMahieu seemed destined to return to the Bronx.

The Toronto Blue Jays, Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Mets, among others, were believed to have some interest.

New York and LeMahieu fit each other. Yankees fans fell for the quiet, businesslike and clutch-hitting LeMahieu. Even LeMahieu's batting approach—he's a right-handed hitter—seemed built for Yankee Stadium. Twenty-seven of his 36 home runs as a Yankee were hit at home, and 17 of those were hit to the stadium's short right field, his opposite field.

After two sterling years in the Bronx, DJ LeMahieu was one of the top hitters on the market and is close to a deal to stay with the Yankees.

After two sterling years in



In this Oct. 19, 2019 file photo, New York Yankees' DJ LeMahieu hits a two-run home run against the Houston Astros during the ninth inning in Game 6 of the American League Championship Series in Houston.

speculation over whether that left enough room for LeMahieu, who appears to be in line for a four- or five-year contract at well above his previous rate of \$12 million annually.

He'd spent seven seasons with the Colorado Rockies and at Coors Field, the hitters' paradise that is difficult to replicate in the 29 other ballparks. Presumably that dampened LeMahieu's market two years ago, though it turned out LeMahieu was not a product of Coors Field but rather, and simply, an excellent hitter. His numbers as a Yankee are better than those in Colorado in every way, including batting average, on-base percentage and slugging.

In fact, in 2020, four years after winning the National League batting title with a .348 average for the Rockies, LeMahieu hit .364 for the Yankees and became the first player in the modern era to win a batting title in both leagues. (AP/NBC)

the Bronx, DJ LeMahieu was one of the top hitters on the market and is close to a deal to stay with the Yankees. (Photo by Jim McIsaac/Getty Images)

LeMahieu proved himself in New York

There was a complicating factor for the Yankees, who haven't been to a World Series since 2009, finished second to the Tampa Bay Rays in the AL East in 2020 and were eliminated by the Rays in October: Payroll, and issues elsewhere on the roster.

Their starting pitching is long on depth but short on

track record, beyond Gerrit Cole and, to some degree, Luis Severino. James Paxton, Masahiro Tanaka and J.A. Happ are free agents. It also appeared they'd have to upgrade at shortstop, though Gleyber Torres would turn just 24 in December and certainly could play himself back to 2019 levels. The issue was subpar as a replacement for Didi Gregorius. He is better off at second base. The Yankees were as likely to trade for newly acquired Mets star Francisco Lindor or sign a

mid-level shortstop along the lines of Andrelton Simmons.

The Yankees' payroll was about \$265 million in 2020 before players' salaries were prorated. About \$132 million is on the books in 2021 for eight players—Cole, Giancarlo Stanton, Aroldis Chapman, Zack Britton, Aaron Hicks, Luis Severino, Aaron Judge and Adam Ottavino. With Gary Sanchez returning at catcher after a rough season at and behind the plate, that's \$140 million for nine players. The luxury tax threshold is \$210 million. There was some

CAROL

From Page 20

I would like to start off the season strong and build into it, as we compete in more matches with different teams," Lee told *Saipan Tribune* on the eve of her debut with Georgia Tech.

The 19-year-old indeed started the season strong, as well as the 12th-ranked Yellow Jackets after routing Ole Miss, 8-2.

Lee was one of the five Georgia Tech rookies that won their singles matches yesterday and the team went on to collect six singles victories. Victoria Flores, Ava Hrstar, Rush Marsh, and Mahak Jain



Carol Lee, second right, poses with her teammates at Georgia Tech during a break in their training session last year.

were the other freshmen to hand the Yellow Jackets wins in the singles game. Georgia Tech's sixth singles triumph was courtesy of sophomore Monika Dedaj.

In the doubles, Flores and Kenya Jones gave the Yellow Jackets the other victory after outclassing Tereza Janatova and Sabina Machalova, 6-3.

Georgia Tech's duel against the University of Mississippi was part of the Bulldogs Kick-off event that also features Mississippi State University. The Yellow Jackets will take on the Bulldogs today.

Lee and company will remain in Starkville, Mississippi until Tuesday (Saipan time) as they will also play against the

University of Memphis.

From Mississippi, the Yellow Jackets will head home to Georgia, but will only have a few days of rest, as they will kick off the Intercollegiate Tennis Association season with a showdown against South Carolina on Jan. 23. For its remaining games this month, Georgia Tech will meet Duke or Michigan on Jan. 24, Georgia State on Jan. 26, and University of Alabama at Birmingham and Kennesaw State on Jan. 29.

Lee and her teammates will continue to compete until April, capping the season with the Atlantic Coast Conference Tennis Championships set for April 21 in Rome, Georgia.

OCEANIA

From Page 20

O'Shaughnessy was quoted as saying on the association's official website.

OAA president Robin Sapong, who is also the secretary general of Northern Marianas Athletics, confirmed the sad development, but assured OAA member-federations that they are looking at all possible options for the event and its participants.

"The COVID-19 pandemic meant that there is little or no travel guarantee in 2021 and therefore hosting the event is problematic. OAA is currently trying to ascertain whether any international competitions

can be conducted in 2021. Once OAA has more certainty, we will recommence with the organization of the championships," Sapong said.

The 2021 Oceania Athletics Championships is important to athletes seeking qualifying slots in this year's Tokyo Olympic Games and the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon.

"OAA continues to work with all our member Federations, World Athletics, and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure that we can support athletes and federations in this difficult time to ensure there is sufficient competition opportunities for athletes. The

OAA office has been tasked with reviewing all alternative options and dates for an area championships to be held in 2021," O'Shaughnessy.

The last Oceania Athletics Championships was held in Townsville, Australia with over 700 athletes from 22 nations competing in the U18, U20, open, masters, and para events. The CNMI fielded eight athletes, including World Championship veteran Zari-nae Sapong, in the 2019 edition of the tournament. Leani Acosta, Jamie Pangelinan, Traven Quitugua, Gabriel Sappa, Oldie Joe Roligat, Theyvie They, and Tinian's Tyler Santos completed the squad.



Female athletes see action in the 100m hurdles event during the 2019 Oceania Athletics Championships in Australia.

OCEANIA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION



Bills, Packers reach conference finals

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Harden debuts with triple-double, KD scores 42

PAGE 18



20 MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Carol perfect in NCAA debut



TENNIS PEOPLE PHOTO

Carol Lee, seen here playing in one of her off-island events in 2019 and in her official Georgia Tech roster photo (right), had a winning debut with the Yellow Jackets in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee went 2-for-2 in her debut with Georgia Tech in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I yesterday in Mississippi.

Lee earned her first win in the collegiate ranks after teaming up with junior Gia Cohen in rallying past University of Mississippi's Kelsey Mize and Reka Zadori, 7-5. Ac-



cording Georgia Tech's athletics website, Lee and Cohen were just a point away from dropping their first doubles match of the spring season, as the Ole Miss pair took a 5-3 lead. However, the Yellow Jackets duo regrouped and mounted a comeback, winning the last four games to steal the victory.

After their close doubles triumph, Lee returned to the hosts' court and faced a familiar foe—Reka Zadori. The Georgia Tech rookie struggled a bit at the start of the singles match, as she was forced to a 2-2 standoff in the first set. However, Lee got her rhythm and dominated Zadori in the closing stage of the opening set for a 6-3 victory. The five-time Northern Mariana Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Female Student of the Year awardee went on to sweep Zadori after a similar 6-3 triumph in the second set. Lee, this time, was in full control of the match early, leading at 4-2 en route to posting a perfect record in her NCAA debut.

"I am very excited for the upcoming season. I haven't played official matches since the COVID-19 pandemic hit so I'm thankful and grateful that our season is not cancelled for spring," said Lee, who received a full athletic scholarship from Georgia Tech.

The Pacific Games gold medalist was supposed to debut with the Yellow Jackets last fall, but the season was scrapped due to the pandemic.

"I can't wait to compete with my new teammates and represent Georgia Tech and also the CNMI. I don't know the line ups yet for doubles and singles but if I do play,



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The fate of the 2021 Oceania Athletics Championships hangs in the balance as the Oceania Athletics Association withdrew the hosting rights of the biennial event from Vanuatu.

Vanuatu is supposed to hold the area championship in Port Vila in May, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it could not host the competition this year.

"With the current climate surrounding COVID-19, OAA and Athletics Vanuatu have been unable to successfully implement the necessary work needed for Port Vila to be able to host the Championships," OAA competitions manager Tom

See OCEANIA on Page 19

Oceania track meet on hold



OCEANIA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

In this 2019 file photo, the CNMI's Leilani Acosta competes in the women's high jump U18 event in the Oceania Athletics Championships held at the Townsville Sports Reserve in Queensland, Australia.

See CAROL on Page 19